THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

A Weekly Journal of Local and General Information,

Will be Published every Saturday Morning, at Two Cents a Copy, or One Dollar a Year, STRICTLY in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE INSERTED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS FOR CASH:—

Six lines, first insertion	0 50
Each subsequent insertion	0 12½
Six to ten lines, first insertion	0 70
Each subsequent insertion	0 16
Above ten lines (per line) first insertion	0 07
Each subsequent insertion, per line	0 02

All Communications for the MERCURY to be addressed, (post-paid) to A. SMALLFIELD, Madoc Post Office.

For sale at WILSON'S MEDICAL HALL, *Madoc, where Subscribers in and near the village may obtain their copies, and orders for the paper and advertisements will obligingly be received.*

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

THE REMAINS OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.—It is expected that the remains of the late Prince Consort will be removed from the royal vault in St. George's chapel, Windsor, before the 14th inst., to their last resting place, which has been prepared in the new royal mausoleum now in the course of erection in Frogmore Gardens. This beautiful building is gradually advancing towards completion.

NEW COMETS.—M. Bruhns, Director of the Observatory of Leipsic, has just discovered two new comets, one on December 1st, and the other on the following day. About the middle of the month they were more or less in the vicinity of Spica Virginis, which rises about three o'clock after midnight. The second comet is bright enough to be observable during moonlight, but the first is fainter, and the moon may prevent its being seen.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.—The [illegible] has received information that Tuesday next—the day of the celebration of the Church festival of the Epiphany—is a legal holiday, and must be observed. It will not be lawful, consequently, to keep the polls open upon that day, but the election of Town Councillors must be adjourned from four o'clock in the afternoon on Monday, until ten o'clock in the forenoon on Wednesday, the 7th inst.

In addition to the list of candidates for the office of Town Councillor which we gave last week, we have now to add the name of Mr. Wm. H. Carpenter, of Bannockburn, who, it is expected, will be very generally supported by the electors in and near that locality. Messrs. R. Ferguson, John Reed, and John Tossie are also candidates.

We regret to learn that Mr. B. Vancleek is seriously ill. He will, therefore, not be a candidate. Mr. Peter Vancleek is likely to run in his stead.

As the time of election draws nigh, the excitement increases, and the contest seems likely to be a warm one, although there appears to be very little doubt on the part of the supporters of Messrs. Wood, Tumblety, O'Hara, Moore and Dale, of the certainty of their election.

TUDOR.—Amongst the candidates in this township are Messrs. Jelly, Maitland, Richardson, Murphy, Potter, Davis, Cuttle, Sweet, and others.

Mr. Benjamin does not run this year for the Council, in any of the townships.

THE QUEENSBOROUGH MAIL ROUTE.—It will be seen by a letter from Mr. Wm. H. Carpenter, in another column, that there was a misapprehension on the part of the petitioners against the change of the Queensborough mail route, which was noticed last week. Instead of cutting off Madoc entirely, there is to be a semi-weekly mail from Bridgewater to Madoc. No one will object to such a change.

THE TEA MEETING in aid of the liquidation of the debt on the Wesleyan Church in Madoc, was held in the Church on Monday evening last. Although the weather was unfavourable, the roads very rough, and sleighing out of the question, something over 100 tickets were sold, and the sum realized amounted to $35.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSIONARY.—Many of our readers will be gratified to learn, that a letter has been received from the Rev. J. A. Preston of Stirling, stating that the newly appointed Minister on behalf of the Church of England and Ireland, the Rev. Albert Whitmarsh, will hold the first service, on Tuesday evening next, in the Town-hall, Madoc.

THE WEATHER.—But for the hearty salutations of Jack Frost the first thing in the morning, and the sight of sliders and skaters on the ice, it would be difficult to believe it is close upon mid-winter. On the last day of the Old Year, and the first of the New, the sun shone out with most cheering brightness and warmth, making the weather just what one would ask for the holiday season. The ground is still bare of snow, and at present there is no prospect of sleighing.

A PARHELION.—On Monday, the 29th of December, shortly before sunset, we witnessed what we have often heard of, but never seen before,—the appearance of a parhelion, or as it is more generally called, a sun-dog or mock sun. The real sun was partially obscured by dark clouds, while the mock one appeared to be shining through a light haze, the edges of which were beautifully tinted with the colours of the rainbow.

THE MILITIA.

We copy the following from the *Canada Gazette* of the 26th of December last:—

MILITARY DISTRICT No. 3, UPPER CANADA.

One Volunteer Infantry Company at Madoc, in the County of Hastings.

To be Captain.

Captain and Adjutant W. Findlay, from 7th Hastings.

To be Lieutenant.

Charles G. Wilson, gentleman.

To be Ensign.

John Archd. Duff, gentleman.

We hope that the exertions of Capt. Findlay having been thus rewarded by the acceptance of the Company he has succeeded in raising, the services of a competent drill instructor may speedily be obtained, and that the fair dames of the township may soon have an opportunity of witnessing the soldierly bearing of the gallant Volunteers on parade. We trust they may never have more serious work on hand, although we have no doubt they will give a good account of themselves in whatever circumstances they may be placed.

THE MADOC TOWNSHIP COUNCIL.—This body held their last sederunt on Monday, the 29th ult. Among those who attended were Messrs. A. F. Wood, Reeve, J. R. Ketcheson, Deputy Reeve, and Moore and Brown. Mr. B. Vancleek was absent on account of ill health. The meeting was occupied the whole day with business relating to school sections and the financial matters of the township.

SHOOTING WITH INTENT TO KILL.—On Saturday last, Dec. 27, a man named Francis Hegan from the Hastings Road, was apprehended under a warrant, and brought before their Worships, A. F. Wood and Wm. H. Tumblety, Esqs., on a charge of shooting at his wife and John Hegan, his son, on the night of Dec. 24th last, a short distance from the Jordan. The facts, so far as we were able to gather at the examination, were as follows:—Young Hegan had been out, hired, among the neighbours, and his wages had been claimed by his father. One of those to whom he was hired was a Mr. Thom, who sold him a gun. After it was taken home, a dispute arose between father and son as to the ownership. The young man kept it in his possession, and his father then, from time to time, made threats against him. The mother took part with the son, and she was threatened likewise. On Christmas Eve, while Mrs. Hegan and her son went to the Jordan for whiskey, the old man followed them with a gun, and concealed himself behind a stump in a bush by the road side. When they returned, and being nearly opposite to where the father was hidden, he fired, but the shot seemed to take no effect. The young man instantly made his way back to the Jordan, and aroused the people in the taverns, when a number of men sallied out and made search, and detected the old man with a gun. Information was then given to A. F. Wood, Esq., who issued a warrant for his apprehension. At the examination, several witnesses proved that a bad feeling had existed between the parties for some time back, and that the father on several occasions made use of threats that he would have their lives sooner or later. Their Worships committed the prisoner to take his trial at the quarter sessions.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

MADOC, Dec. 29th, 1862.

DEAR SIR,—In your article on "Patronage of the Press" in your issue of the 27th inst., you seem to mistake the reason why I object to increasing the number of papers in which the county does its advertising. My argument is simply this:—*The County advertise for the purpose of calling attention to certain matters, not for the purpose of supporting papers.* If advertising in two papers will fully answer the desired end—then why publish in more? If by publishing a notice of "Tenders for a Bridge" on a County road in Madoc in the MADOC MERCURY it would better attract the attention of those interested than by inserting the same in either the *Chronicle* or *Intelligencer*, then I say put it in the MERCURY, but not for any such reason as patronage.

With reference to the "late inquest," I think no one has any serious intention of making any effort to pre-

vent the Coroner from getting his fees; for he unquestionably earned them, in coming all the way from his residence to the village and enquiring into the matter. But as a question of necessity, it does not appear to me to be a case that comes within the intention of the law, which says—"No inquest shall be held on the body of any deceased person by any Coroner until it has been made to appear to such Coroner that there is reason to believe that the deceased person died from violence or unfair means, or by culpable or negligent conduct either of himself or of others, under such circumstances as to require investigation, *and not through mere accident or chance.*" There seems to be no chance for mistake here. But where a remedy could be applied is simply here:—Pay the Coroner for making the necessary enquiries. Cases of sudden death should be enquired into; but Coroners cannot well afford to give their time for nothing. Hence many of the inquests, as no other provision is made by which they can get pay for their services.

Yours, &c, A. F. WOOD

In justice to Mr. Wood, we give insertion to the above, as his views on the points referred to appear to have been misapprehended and incorrectly reported. But we are not personally interested, not having asked the County Council for support or patronage—*Ed. M. M.*

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert the following in reference to the Queensborough mail, so that the inhabitants of Madoc may see their rights are not infringed upon, but rather that greater facilities are extended to them.

A petition has been forwarded to the Postmaster-General, requestiug him to change the mail route from Madoc to Queensborough via Cooper, to one from Bridgewater to Madoc via Queensborough, Cooper, and Hazard's Corner, and to get it twice a week. The P.M.-General has acceded to the prayer of the petition, and it goes into force within a short time. I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

WM. H. CARPENTER.

BANNOCKBURN, Dec. 31st, 1862.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the UNDERSIGNED will hold an ELECTION in the TOWN-HALL, MADOC, on MONDAY, the 5th, and WEDNESDAY, the 7th, days of JANUARY next, 1863, for the purpose of electing FIVE MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS to represent the municipality for the ensuing year.

W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

OFFICE, TOWN-HALL, MADOC, Dec. 22, 1862.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS WILLIAM MUMBY has by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that he be granted the Hastings Road Allowance in lieu of the present road now travelled through Lot No. 28, in the 5th Concession, Madoc,—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties objecting to the prayer of said petition will have to appear before said Council at their next regular meeting, when they will be heard, and of which due intimation will be given.

By Order, W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS THOMAS THOMSON AND OTHERS have by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that the said Thomas Thomson be granted the allowance of road across the west end of Lot No. 15, in the 5th Concession, Madoc, in lieu of the road now travelled across said lot,—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties having objections thereto will be heard by the said Council at their next regular meeting, of which due intimation will be given. By Order, W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

DR. THWAITES,

Madoc.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER,

MADOC.

TO RENT, OR EXCHANGE

FOR A SUITABLE HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE,

THE LARGE FRAME BUILDING,

On the North-East Corner of Lot No. 28, in the Fifth Concession of Madoc,

IMMEDIATELY ADJOINING KELLAR'S BRIDGE,

Well Adapted either for a Store or Dwelling House.

For Particulars apply either on the spot to A. Smallfield, or if by letter, postpaid, at the Madoc Post Office.

MR. GREAM,

(Solicitor and Attorney of the Chancery and Law Courts of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.,

West Half of Lot 20 in the 7th Concession of Madoc.

MR. GREAM will attend in Madoc Village every Saturday.

W. FINDLAY,

Town Clerk, Conveyancer, Notary Public, &c

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

A. F. WOOD, Madoc.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

G. D. RAWE,

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER,

DIVISION STREET, MADOC.

MEDICAL HALL.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

JOHN DALE,

DEALER IN STOVES, TINWARE, SHEET IRON, &c.—A Large Assortment of COOKING and BOX STOVES always on hand.

THE RUSSELL HOUSE, MADOC,

By A. Snider,

Corner of Madawaska and Donald Streets.

A FIRST CLASS HOUSE, IN the business part of the town. A Good Yard and Stabling.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,

MADOC.

DEANS & GRAY,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

Madoc.

JAMES DEANS. ROBERT T. GRAY.

NEW STORE AT MADOC.

A. B. ROSS & BROTHER,

DEALERS IN STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES, LEATHER, &c.

The Highest Price in Cash paid for Potash.

A. B. ROSS. S. D. ROSS.

MADOC HOUSE.

NEW GOODS.

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, HARDWARE, GROCERIES, COAL OIL LAMPS, BOOTS & SHOES, &c., &c., &c.

Cash paid for Grain and Potash.

Madoc, Nov., 1862.

ANDREW WRIGHT,

BAKER AND CONFECTIONER, East Side, Durham street, Madoc.—A Large Assortment of Liquors, Groceries, and Provisions always on hand.

S. TEMPLE,

Boot and Shoe Maker,

MUMBY'S MILLS.

REPAIRING DONE WITH NEATNESS AND DISPATCH.

THE INTELLIGENCER,

A WEEKLY POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER, published in Belleville by MACKENZIE BOWELL, at $2 a year. It is the oldest paper published in the County of Hastings, and one of the oldest in the Province, being in its 28th year.

Published every Friday Morning, corner of Front and Bridge Streets, Belleville, C. W. Terms:—Two Dollars per annum, if called for at the office, or sent by mail; and Two Dollars and a half per annum, when delivered by the carrier; payable in all cases in advance. When not paid till after the close of the year, Fifty Cents will be added to each year's subscription.

No Paper discontinued until all arrears are paid up, except at the option of the Publisher.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

MR. EDITOR,—I am much obliged to you for the favourable notice you have been pleased to take of my STRIKING AND GAY LOOKING STAGE SLEIGH. Permit me through your columns to inform my friends and the travelling public that I am not only prepared to take them through to Beaver Creek on the mail days, but am ready on any other day in the week to serve my friends and customers, not only to Beaver Creek but to all parts of the County.

If I am not able from press of business to take passengers myself, they may depend on having a steady and reliable driver sent with them.

I remain, Your obedient Servant,

LYMAN MOON.

Madoc, 13th Dec., 1862.

MILITIA MATTERS.—We learn that Major Archibald Ponton has received orders from the Government, through Brigade Major Shaw, to raise a Battalion of Volunteers, consisting of six companies of 55 men each.—*Chronicle.*

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—As Mr. John Lavine, of this town, accompanied by his son, Wm. Lavine, a fine young man of about 19 years of age, in the employ of Messrs. R. & R. S. Patterson, were crossing the Bay of Quinte on skates and pushing a sleigh before them, the ice gave way underneath them, and they were both immersed in the water. Mr. Lavine was got out, and has recovered from his immersion, but his son was unfortunately drowned. Up to the time of writing we have not heard of the recovery of the body.—*Independent.*

The Belleville *Intelligencer*, in its issue of the 26th ult., announced the removal of its office from the old-established stand, to the house adjoining, known as the "Bull Buildings." It is a gratifying evidence of the prosperity of the County Town, that this step has been resolved on in consequence of the increasing circulation of the paper and the greater amount of job-printing rendering more space necessary for the introduction of new and improved printing presses. We hope and have little doubt the outlay will be well repaid.

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

	SATURDAY, Jan. 3rd, 1863.
ASHES	$6 ₱ cwt.
BARLEY	
OATS	35 to 40 cents.
WHEAT	80 to 90 cents.
PEAS	50 to 60 cents.
HIDES	$4 to $4 50.
PORK	$8½ to $9 ₱ bbl.
BUTTER	12½ cents ₱ lb.
HAY	$12 ₱ ton.

BANNOCKBURN PRICES CURRENT.

WHEAT	$0 80 @ $0 85
OATS	35 @ 37½
PEAS	45 @ 50
BUCKWHEAT	20 @ 25
ASHES, ₱ 112 lb.	28s 9d.
BUTTER.	
HIDES,	$4 25 a $4 50.
HAY,	$12.
STRAW,	$1 50 a $2 00 per load.
POTATOES,	25c a 30c. Jan. 3rd, 1863.

BELLEVILLE MARKETS.

Spring Wheat, 2s 9d. Rye, 3s 0d. Barley, 3s 0d. Oats, 1s 9d. Peas, 2s 6½d. Flour (Retail) ₱ bbl., 25s 0d. Flour, ₱ 100 lbs., 11s 3d. @ 12 6d. Potash, ₱ cwt., 50s 0d. Hay, ₱ ton, 60s 0d. @80s 0d. Potatoes, ₱ bushel, 1s 3d. @1s 6d. Beef, ₱ cwt., 10s 0d. @15s 0d. Pork, ₱ cwt., 15s 0d. @20s 0d. Butter, ₱ lb 0s 7d. @0s 8d. Eggs, ₱ doz, 0s 7d. @0s 7½.

SITTING IN THE SUN.

When Hope deceives, and friends betray,
And kinsmen shun me with a flout;
When hair grows white, and eyes grow dim,
And life's slow sand is nigh run out,
I'll ask no boon of any one,
But sing old songs, and sit i' the sun.

When memory is my only joy,
And all my thoughts shall backward turn;
When eyes shall cease to glow with love,
And heart with generous fire to burn,
I'll ask no boon of any one,
But sing old songs, and sit i' the sun.

When sounds grow low to deafening ears,
And suns shine not as once they did;
When parting is no more a grief,
And I do whatsoe'er they bid,
I'll ask no boon of any one,
But sing old songs, and sit i' the sun.

Then underneath a spreading elm,
That guards some little cottage door,
I'll dance a grandchild on my knee,
And count my past days o'er and o'er.
I'll ask no boon of any one,
But sing old songs, and sit i' the sun.

THE NEW CARPET.

'I can hardly spare it, Jane; but as you have so set your heart upon it, why I suppose I must.'

The young wife looked with rapture upon the shining gold pieces.

'Twenty pounds,' said she to herself, 'how rich it makes me feel. It seems a great deal to pay for a carpet; but "gold is worth gold," as the old saying is, and one good purchase is worth a dozen poor ones. I'll buy one of the very finest and most beautiful Brussels.'

Afternoon came; the rosy babe was laid asleep in his little cradle, and the maid received a score of charges to linger by its side every moment till the darling woke up. Jane, flushed with eager anticipation, looked her prettiest; and throwing her mantilla over her handsome shoulders, she was just hurrying away, when a loud ring at the door brought out a very pettish 'Oh dear!' at the expected intrusion.

'O, Jane—dear Jane!' and a pale young creature sat panting on the sofa. 'We are in such trouble—such a dreadful trouble! Can you help us? Do you think we could borrow twenty pounds from your husband? Couldn't you get it for us? You know you said I might always rely upon you when trial came: and poor Charles expects every moment to be arrested; and he is so ill!'

'Dear, dear!' said Jane, her good heart suddenly contracting; 'Edward told me, only this morning, not to ask him for any money for three months;' and she gathered her purse tightly in her handkerchief. 'I'm sure, if—I—only—could oblige you, I would; but I expect Edward is really pushed. Can't you get it elsewhere? Have you tried?'

'Yes,' answered her friend, despondingly, 'I've tried everywhere. People know that Charles is ill and cannot repay immediately. Mr. J—— knows our circumstances, yet he insists upon that money. O, it is so hard! it is so hard!'

Her pitiful voice, and the big tears running like rain down her pallid cheeks, almost unnerved Jane's selfishness. But that carpet—that beautiful carpet she had promised herself so long, and so often been disappointed of its possession, that she could not give it up. She knew her husband's heart—and that he would urge her to self-denial. No! she would not see him—if she did, it was all over with the carpet.

'Well,' said her poor friend, in a desponding voice, rising to go, 'I'm sorry you can't help me; I know you would if you could, and it is something to know that—but I go back with a heavy heart. Good morning, dear Jane; I hope you will never know what it is to want and suffer.'

How handsome the new carpet looked as the sun streamed in on its wreathed flowers, its colours of fawn, and blue, and crimson, its soft velvety richness—and how proud felt Jane at the lavish praises of her neighbours. It was a bargain, too; she had saved six pounds in its purchase, and bought a pair of elegant vases for the window-recess.

'I declare,' said her husband, this looks like comfort; but it spoils all my pleasure to think of poor Charley Somers. The poor fellow is dead.'

Jane gave a real sharp scream, and the flush faded from her face.

'Yes! that rascally J——! For the paltry sum of twenty pounds, he arrested Charles, who ruptured a blood-vessel, and lived scarcely an hour afterwards. You know he has been weak and ill this long while.'

'And Mary?' issued from Jane's bloodless lips.

'She has a dead child; and they tell me her life is despaired of. Why on earth didn't they send to me? I could easily have spared the money for that purpose. If it had stripped me of the last guinea, they should have had it. Poor fellow—poor Mary!'

'And I might have saved it—*all!*' shrieked Jane, sinking on her knees on that rich carpet. 'Oh, Edward, will God ever forgive me for my heartlessness? Mary did call here, and with tears begged me to aid her—and I—I—had the whole sum in my hand—and coldly turned her away. O, my God, forgive me, forgive me!'

In the very agony of grief, poor Jane would receive no comfort. In vain her husband strove to soothe her; she would not hear a word in extenuation of her selfish conduct.

'I shall never forget poor Mary's tears; I shall never forget her sad voice; they will haunt me to my dying day! O, take it away—that hateful carpet! I have purchased it with the death of my dearest friend! How could I be so cruel? I shall never be happy again—never—never!'

Years have passed since then, and Mary with her husband lie together under the green sod of the churchyard. Jane has grey hair mixed with the light brown of her tresses; but she lives in a home of splendour, and none knew her but to bless her. There is a Mary, a gentle Mary in her household, dear to her as her own sweet children—she is the orphan child of those who have rested side by side for ten long years.

Edward is rich; but prosperity has not hardened his heart. His hand never tires of giving out bounty to the poor; and Jane is the guardian angel of the needy. The 'new carpet,' long since old, is sacredly preserved as a memento of sorrowful but penitent hours; and many a weary heart owes to its silent influence the prosperity that has turned want's wilderness into an Eden of plenty.

Pursuit of a Thief to Australia.—In June last, a man named Robert Stewart, who was employed as farm-bailiff by Mr. Caldicott, of Holdebrook Grange, in the county of Warwick, absconded with some £500 of his master's money; and a girl, who had lived with Mrs. Caldicott as lady's maid, disappeared somewhat mysteriously at the same time. The matter was of course placed in the hands of the Warwickshire police at once, and inquiries were speedily set on foot.

Mr. Superintendent Wild, of Rugby, after some difficulty, succeeded in tracing both Stewart and the lady's maid on board the Great Britain, where the former had taken a first-class passage for himself and the lady's maid under the names of Robert and Jane Martin. Unfortunately, however, the discovery was made too late to capture the delinquents in England, for the ship sailed from England on the 13th June, and the police were not aware of the fact that Stewart was on board until some days afterwards. Yet one chance remained—the overland route. The thought was no sooner conceived than it was put into execution. Sergeant Palmer, of Cubbington, being a trusty officer, was supplied with the necessary funds, and set off, via Marseilles, to meet Robert and Jane Martin on their disembarkation at Melbourne. Still it was a close race, spite of the advantages of the quicker route. The Great Britain set out on the 13th; Palmer could not start till the 26th. Stewart had a clear thirteen days' start of his pursuer. Palmer, however, did his best, and arriving post-haste at Melbourne, on the 13th of August, inquired, in breathless suspense, whether the Great Britain had arrived. It had not; but a few hours and Palmer's would have been a fruitless journey. He reached Melbourne at four o'clock P.M. on the 13th; the Great Britain came into the same port at ten o'clock A.M. on the 14th. Palmer, we may be sure, was waiting for it, and as Stewart and the lady's maid stepped lightly on to the landing, in all the anticipation of future enjoyment, quietly confronted him, with a courteous 'How d'ye do?' The astonishment and chagrin of Robert and Jane Martin may be better imagined than described. Stewart was, as a matter of course, taken into custody at once, and what was better, a hundred and seventy pounds in gold and notes were found in his possession, besides a quantity of new wearing apparel. On the following day he was taken before the Melbourne magistrates and remanded back to England.

The Pneumatic Despatch Company.—The transmission of parcels and small goods from station to station through a confined iron tube by means of atmospheric exhaustion and pressure will soon be commenced. The London and North-Western Railway Company having granted a site for a station and receiving house, rent-free, at Euston-square, a few yards from the Clearing-house, the Directors of the Pneumatic Despatch Company at once commenced operations by laying down beneath the roadway of Upper Seymour street a line of iron tubing about half a mile in length, and extending from that terminus to the post office in Eversholt street, under the superintendence of their engineer, Mr. W. Rammell. Within the iron tube, which is about two feet nine inches high and two feet six inches wide (its section being similar to that of a railway tunnel in miniature), are two small ledges or rails, on which the wheels of the small cars bearing the parcels will run. These will be propelled backwards and forwards, on the signal being given, by the exhaustion and pressure of the air in the tube.

VARIETIES.

There are two things a man rarely forgets—his first love, and his first cigar.

Preston has a population of 80,000, of which 16,000, at least, are now receiving relief from the Board of Guardians.

It is estimated that of every 100 new books published in the three great cities of the United Kingdom, 80 appear in London, 15 in Edinburgh, and 5 in Dublin.

A man dancing a polka is said to look as if he had a hole in his pocket, and was trying to shake a shilling down the leg of his trowsers.

At the siege of Acre, a cannon ball from one of the Turkish batteries passed very near Sir Charles Felix Smith, whose ear was not particularly accustomed to that kind of fun. 'Do you hear that music?' said he to a Scotch subaltern in the artillery. 'Hoot, toot,' was the reply, 'I care nothing about the balls that come—my business is with the balls which go!'

The French Government has lately taken possession of a place called Oboc, near the Straits of Babelmandel. Oboc, which is said to have been purchased for $10,000, has a very good and roomy harbour, and plenty of excellent water.

Many of the leading artists in England, on the suggestion of George Lance, the inimitable fruit-painter, have agreed to contribute each a picture to the Lancashire Relief Fund. An Exhibition of these gifts is announced.

The master of the Meagh Hunt, Mr. Nicolson, was hunting near Dromore, in Ireland, with the hounds, on the 25th November, when he fell heavily from his horse, and died at once. Death was caused by disease of the heart.

Another substitute for cotton is announced, in the shape of fibres drawn from South African bulbs. Mr. Ghislin, the introducer of these bulbs, won the prize medal for the display of South African manufactured algæ at the International Exhibition.

Some people can't learn wisdom: Mr. R. Storrs Willis, not long since, put his foot in it, by announcing in his Once a Month that it was impossible for a jury at the Great National Exhibition to do justice to any American exhibitor; whereupon straightway followed the award of the chief prize in the musical-instrument department to Messrs. Steinway, of New York. He is at it still, chaunting in a lyric the nonsense: 'Coward England mocks amain!'

A beautiful young lady had her leg broken, by accident. The Doctor who set it fell in love with his patient. His visits became frequent. Finally the lady's father refused him the daughter's hand. The Doctor then brought in a bill for 218 visits, at two dollars each. This caused the hard-hearted father to relent, and Sawbones won his prize.

Equivocal.—Two old gentlemen of our acquaintance were complimenting each other on their habits of temperance.

'Did you ever, neighbour,' said one, 'see me with more than I could carry?'

'No, indeed,' was the reply; 'not I. But I have seen you when I thought you had better have gone twice after it.'

An old miser owning a farm, found it impossible to do his work without assistance, and accordingly offered any man food for performing the requisite labour. A half-starved man hearing of his terms, accepted them. Before going into the fields in the morning, he invited his servant to breakfast; after finishing the morning meal, the old skinflint thought it would be a saving of time if they should place the dinner upon the table after the breakfast. This was readily agreed to by the unsatisfied stranger, and the dinner was soon dispatched. 'Suppose, now,' said the frugal farmer, 'we take supper; it will save time and trouble, you know.' 'Just as you like,' said the eager eater, and at it they went. 'Now we will go to work,' said the delighted employer. 'Thank you,' said the labourer, 'I never work after supper.'

The pious Richard Baxter recorded one result of his experience as follows:—'The good are not so good as I thought, nor the bad so evil; and in all there is more grace, more to testify for God and holiness, than I once thought.'

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

No. 7. MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1863. PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

THE STEAMSHIP ARIEL CAPTURED BY THE CONFEDERATE PRIVATEER ALABAMA.

The Vanderbilt steamship Ariel was captured on her trip from New York to Aspinwall, on the 7th ult., by the privateer Alabama, near the east end of Cuba. She was detained until the 10th, and then allowed to proceed on her voyage, after giving a ransom bond in the sum of $228,000, to be paid within thirty days after the establishment of the independence of the Confederate States. She had on board a quantity of arms and ammunition, which was taken out by the Alabama, and a detachment of 120 marines, who were paroled, 'not to serve the United States in any manner during the war.' Among other plunder taken was $8,000 in 'greenbacks' belonging to Wells, Fargo and Co. But for the large number of passengers on board, the Ariel would have been burnt by Capt. Semmes, because her owner has given the splendid steamship Vanderbilt to the U. S. government to be used as a man of war. But 'pirate' as Semmes is called by the Northern press, he did not take any of the private property of the passengers, nor even interfere in the slightest manner with the mails on board. The mortification of the merchant princes and the people of New York at this last instance of the successful audacity of a single vessel of which quite a fleet of U. S. men of war is in search, is not much diminished by the admiration expressed by the passengers for the courtesy and consideration with which they were treated.

PRESIDENT DAVIS'S PROCLAMATION.

THE RETALIATORY POLICY INAUGURATED.

Jefferson Davis, as President of the Confederate States, on the 23rd ult. issued a proclamation, in which, after reciting at length the circumstances attending the execution of William B. Mumford at New Orleans by order of Gen. Butler, and the silence of the U. S. Government when called upon for their version of the affair, he pronounces and declares Butler to be a felon, deserving of capital punishment, and orders that he shall no longer be considered or treated simply as a public enemy of the Confederate States but as an outlaw and common enemy of mankind, and in the event of his capture, the officer in command of the capturing force is to cause him to be immediately executed by hanging. No commissioned officer of the U. S., taken captive, shall be released on parole before exchange, until Butler shall have met with due punishment for his crimes. The proclamation next cites numerous examples that the hostilities waged against the Confederacy by the forces under the command of Butler have borne no resemblance to such warfare as is alone permissible by the rules of international law, or the usage of civilization, but have been characterized by repeated atrocities and outrages, on which account the commissioned officers are to be reserved, when captured, for execution; but the privates, not being free agents, will be paroled according to the usages of war; all slaves captured in arms to be delivered to the authorities of the respective States to which they belong, to be dealt with according to law; and a like course to be pursued with all commissioned officers found serving with slaves.

THE BANKS EXPEDITION.

The expedition under Gen. Banks arrived on the 15th of December at New Orleans, where the General has established his headquarters as Commander of the Department of the Gulf—Gen. Butler being superseded by him. Butler, it is contended by the war party, is not removed from his command—in deference either to the representations and demands of France or the threats of the Confederates—but he is simply removed, being outranked by Gen. Banks. No censure is expressed or implied upon his official conduct by the proceeding, of which he received the first intimation by telegraph on the arrival of the expedition off the forts below the city. The Government finds it necessary to adopt a policy, both in military affairs and in its negotiations with foreign States, which will be aided by the substitution of another commander.

The first duty assigned to Gen. Banks is the opening of the Mississippi, in conjunction with the expedition going down the river from Cairo, and already a portion of his forces had gone to Baton Rouge and taken possession of that city, without resistance.

THE PROCLAMATION OF EMANCIPATION.

President Lincoln, in accordance with the purpose proclaimed on the 22nd of September, 1862, to free all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a State, in rebellion against the United States on the 1st of January, 1863, has designated the following as the States and parts of States wherein the people are in rebellion:—

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemine, Jefferson, St. Johns, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans), Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia; and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, Norfolk, and Portsmouth, and which excepted parts are left precisely as if this proclamation was not issued.

The President then, as Commander in-Chief of the army and navy of the U. S., and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing the rebellion, proclaims—"I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States, are and henceforward shall be free, and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons; and I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free, to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self defence; and I recommend to them that in all cases when allowed they labour faithfully for reasonable wages.

"I further declare and make known that such persons of suitable condition will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts positions stations, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service; and upon this, sincerely believed to be an act of justice, warranted by the constitution, upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgement of mankind and the gracious favour of Almighty God."

So, to deprive the rebels of the services of their slaves, who, it is alleged, are the mainstay of the rebellion by raising food while their masters fight, the slaves are, in one breath, declared to be free; and in the next, are recommended to labour faithfully for reasonable wages,—of course in the service and for the benefit of the still rebellious white men! Really, such emancipation is a very Lincoln-ish sort of a fit and necessary war measure.

It has been freely asserted in the United States by the opponents of the Abolitionists, that their chief object in clamouring for a Proclamation of Emancipation was to have the negroes drafted into the military service of the U. S., in place of themselves; and although the President at present will accept the negroes merely for garrison duty, how long will it be before the freed slaves are required to submit to all the chances of war as well as their white sympathisers? At any rate, they owe such freedom as the Proclamation may give them, not to any good will on the part of the President, but to his conviction that the free white North cannot 'crush the rebellion' without the aid of a class who are not allowed the right of residence, much less of citizenship, in the very State the President lived in before he went to Washington.

A BATTLE AT MURFREESBORO.

The Fourteenth Army Corps, under Gen. Rosecrans, made a general advance near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on the 29th ult., and pushed the rebels back seven or eight miles. Collins' brigade, of Gen. McCook's corps, had a sharp brush with the enemy just beyond Nolinsville. Cannonading took place for an hour, the enemy wasting considerable ammunition. The U. S. troops reserved their fire, until, advancing briskly, by a dexterous flank movement, the One Hundred and First Ohio captured one gun and a caisson. One man was killed, and three were wounded.

Heavy artillery firing was heard on the Nolinsville road, where Gen. McCook engaged the rebel Hardee. The weather was damp and the ground very heavy.

A despatch dated "near Murfreesboro," on Dec. 31, says:—Our whole line suffered terribly this morning. Four regiments of regulars lost half their men and all their commanding officers. General Anderson's troops suffered severely. Majors Rosengarten and Ward are killed. Generals Stanley, Rousseau and Palmer are wounded.

TWO O'CLOCK, P.M.—Gen. Thomas has just broken the rebel centre and driven the enemy a mile. We are advancing our whole line. Gen. Rosecrans is personally superintending the movements. One shot killed two of his staff officers. The 15th Wisconsin regiment has lost seven captains. Gen. Negley's artillery is still mowing the rebels in the centre. Gen. Crittenden's left wing has taken the intrenchments at Murfreesboro. The rebel Generals Cheatham and Rains are killed.

NASHVILLE, Jan. 3.—The Unionists encountered the rebels on the 30th ult., near Stewart's Creek. After heavy skirmishing, the rebels were driven back. We captured 100 prisoners, and killed and wounded a large number of rebels. Our loss was about 70 killed and wounded.

At daybreak on the 31st the fight was renewed with great fury. McCook's corps was opposed to Hardee. After desperate fighting, with heavy loss on both sides, McCook retreated two miles back. At night he was four miles this side of the ground occupied in the morning. The fight lasted until ten o'clock, at which time we held our position.

Admiral David D. Porter writes from Cairo, to a friend in Philadelphia, "that he will capture Vicksburg on or before the 1st proximo, and present it to the nation as a New Year's gift."

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.
A Weekly Journal of Local and General Information,
Will be Published every Saturday Morning, at Two Dollars a Copy, or One Dollar a Year, STRICTLY in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE INSERTED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS FOR CASH:—

A Line, first insertion	0 50
Each subsequent insertion	0 12½
Ten to ten lines, first insertion	0 70
Each subsequent insertion	0 16
Above ten lines (per line) first insertion	0 07
Each subsequent insertion, per line	0 02

All Communications for the MERCURY to be addressed, (post-paid), to A. SMALLFIELD, Madoc Post Office.

For sale at WILSON'S MEDICAL HALL, Madoc, where Subscribers in and near the village may obtain their copies, and orders for the paper and advertisements will obligingly be received.

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

Friendly mediation by foreign powers is now, according to the Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Journal of Commerce, talked of in all directions. From the present aspect of military affairs, and the deadness of the martial spirit at the federal capital, the idea of "conquering a peace," and "whipping the South out of its boots," seems to have been abandoned.

Enormous frauds in soldiers' claims, covering near a million of dollars, have recently been discovered in New York, implicating more than a thousand persons there alone.

Ericsson's iron-clad "Monitor," which was to have been a match for the whole British navy combined, is reported to have founuered off Cape Hatteras, with a loss of two officers and thirty-eight men.

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

On Monday last, at the hour of 10 o'clock, the Town-Hall, Madoc, was filled by the voters of the municipality, assembled for the purpose of nominating candidates to run as Councillors for 1868.

Upon the Town Clerk's declaring himself in readiness to receive nominations, a regular storm of names was hurled at the Poll Clerk, which, after a little delay, were arranged as follows:—Wood, Moore, Dale, Vancleek, Tumblety, O'Hara, Tossie, Reed, and Carpenter.

Mr. WOOD, being called upon, stepped forward to the stand, and, in a plain, distinct manner, laid before the electors the financial state of the municipality—showing the township to be in a most flourishing state,—out of debt—a balance on hand—no debentures issued—a low tax—and the most promising prospects in the future. He showed plainly the fallacy of a municipality's borrowing money on the credit of their wild land tax without something extraordinary demanded it, and that it would be a great necessity that should induce a corporation to borrow money at from 10 to 15 per cent., for discount and interest would amount to that. He also stated that certain reports injurious to his standing as a Councillor had been put in circulation by some persons, and he then and there called upon them, if they had the pluck of honest men, to step forward and make their charges against him there, before the electors, and give him a chance to show his constituents how false the allegations were.—As no person availed himself of the opportunity, we are bound to believe the reports untrue.—Mr. Wood concluded by declaring his intention of going to the polls, confidently relying upon the support of the electors.

Mr. MOORE followed, stating that during the past year he had done all in his power to forward the interests of the municipality, and should continue to do so if elected.

Mr. DALE said he was a new man in the field for municipal honours. He could say nothing as to the past, for he had never had the honour of serving them as a Councillor, but he could say one thing for the future, if elected—and that was, he should endeavour to satisfy them, by straightforward conduct and fairness to all parties, that their confidence had not been misplaced.

Mr. VANCLEEK said he had not much to say, as speaking was not his forte, but as he had been nominated, he wished to be elected. He should try very hard, if elected, to serve all parties fairly. One thing he did want, and that was—whether they thought him the best man or not—for all to vote for him, as, being a candidate, he wanted to be elected.

Mr. TUMBLETY, on coming forward, said he was a candidate in place of his friend Mr. Ketcheson, as he had made up his mind last year, and had also stated it to the electors, never to run again while Mr. Ketchesoa was in the field, as they lived so near together it affected both their chances of being elected. But now that Mr. Ketcheson had declared his intention of resigning, he (Mr. T.) was a candidate for the honourable position of their representative as a Councillor, and he assured them—as they were well aware that when in the Council before he had endeavoured to discharge his duties faithfully—if elected again, he endeavour to do so.

Mr. O'HARA, upon rising, wished them all a happy new year, and said he was glad to meet them and have the opportunity of addressing them. He was an old man, had long resided in the township of Madoc, and was identified with its interests and the happiness and prosperity of the electors. He was glad to see them prosperous and happy, and hoped they would push on in endeavouring to improve in every right and proper way. One way was to become a member of the Township Agricultural Society. He alluded in a joking way to the fact that the money was somewhat delayed for the premiums, owing, he said, to the fact, perhaps, that the last Government had drained the treasury; but as they had a new set of men, he trusted it would be all right next year.—[We understand that some parties took offence at this, but it was most apparent that nothing of the kind was intended.]—He also urged their taking the MERCURY, and supporting home institutions. It was a good family paper and deserved support, and he wished the enterprising proprietor every success. He said he expected from the appearance of the smiliug faces around him that he should be elected.

Mr. TOSSIE would try to secure the interests of the electors, and do all in his power to advance the municipality.

Mr. REED said he was near to the last, but they would remember it was said that the first shall be last, and the last first. He passed a high encomium on the business ability displayed by Mr. Wood in the statement made of the financial affairs of the township, and also of its general affairs.

Mr. CARPENTER said he was also a new man. He had been urged by his friends in the locality where he lived to offer as a Councillor for the coming year. He was before them, and asked for their suffrages. If elected, he should earnestly endeavour to serve the interests of Madoc.

The polling then commenced, and Messrs. Wood and Vancleek went ahead of the other candidates from the start. At four o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, the Town Clerk declared the polls finally closed, and announced the following as the votes for the respective candidates—Messrs. Reed and Tossie having previously resigned:—

WOOD	337
VANCLEEK	307
MOORE	274
TUMBLETY	256
DALE	223
O'HARA	198
CARPENTER	83

and the following gentlemen duly elected:—Messrs. A. F. Wood, P. Vancleek, W. N. Moore, W. H. Tumblety, and J. Dale.

Mr. WOOD being loudly called upon for a speech, warmly returned thanks for his re-election, frankly admitting that he expected that result; and furthermore that he looked forward to be chosen Reeve of the Township, and if not mistaken on that point, then he had hopes of filling the post of Warden of the County. He felt extremely gratified that he was once more placed at the head of the poll,—because while new men were frequently brought forward, and sometimes polled a high vote—his re-election after serving for so many years, when there must have been so many opportunities of complaint if there was any ground for it—proved that he had obtained the confidence of the electors. He was grateful to those who had voted for him, and bore no ill-will towards those who had not. He had but one regret, and that was that Mr. O Hara had not been elected.

Mr. VANCLEEK in a few pithy words returned thanks for the hearty support which he—a new man—had received upon very short notice.

Mr. MOORE thanked his friends for the support they had again given him, notwithstanding the attempt that had been made to injure his prospects by false representations that if elected, he would vote against any expenditure of money for improvements on the West road—a charge he indignantly repudiated.

Mr. TUMBLETY also very briefly expressed his thanks for the renewed proof he had just received of the confidence reposed in him by his supporters.

Mr. DALE when called upon, said that he was no great hand at making a speech, especially when the previous speakers had said just what he was going to say—so he contented himself with returning thanks for his election.

Mr. O HARA was then called forward, and said he had *not* expected to be defeated—but he was handsomely whipped, and he acknowledged the corn.—(Laughter and applause.)—A friend had just told him he had done himself harm by his remarks—they knew his joking way—about the Agricultural Society. He, however, would again urge them to support the Society; and as it was desirable that all men should be intelligent, he repeated his recommendation that all should support the new local paper—the MADOC MERCURY, for it was a very good one, and the proprietor, for bringing his capital amongst them, deserved to be supported. He concluded by calling upon Mr. Wood for the story about the public chest, which had done him (O'Hara) damage with his friends.

Mr. WOOD, in capital style, and amidst shouts of laughter, repeated the story of the Cabinet minister who accounted for having his arm in a sling by saying he had got it hurt by the lid of the public chest falling upon it while he—on first getting into office—made a rush at it, to find it already emptied by his predecessors.

Mr. CARPENTER then said he had not expected to be unsuccessful—but as he was so, he would try another year, and if unsuccessful then, he would try till he did succeed.

Three cheers were, upon being called for by Mr. Wood, heartily given for Mr. O Hara—and with three more lusty ones for the Queen, the proceedings of the election of 1868 closed.

TUDOR.—The following are the Municipal Councillors for the Township of Tudor for 1868, and the votes they polled:—Messrs. Murphy, 97; Richardson, 95; Potter, 94; Sweet, 86; and Tivey, 84.

MADOC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Attention is called to the advertisement of the above society, which will be found in another column. Every farmer, in fact, almost every resident, ought to be a member or supporter of such a useful institution. All may not be able to carry off prizes for the animals or articles they may send to the annual exhibition, but no one can fail to obtain some valuable "wrinkles," or at least find it pleasant to meet friends and neighbours on such an occasion.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF SHEEP.—Within the last two or three weeks, some of the farmers in the neighbourhood of Beat's settlement, eight or ten miles to the north of the the village of Hastings, have lost sheep in a most unaccountable manner. One farmer who has lost three, has not succeeded in finding any trace of the missing animals up till the present time; and another lost the fattest sheep in the flock, on Sunday last, sometime between ten o'clock in the forenoon and four in the afternoon.

THE COMBATS OF A CONSTABLE.—The "Recollections of a Policeman," and the experiences of detective officers have formed the foundations of many an interesting tale for the literary magazines. If BATEMAN, the constable of Madoc, were inclined to put all the adventures he has met with, in the way of resistance to the execution of his duty, into a connected series, he might tell many a story of rough and tumble fights, some of them of recent occurrence, and which may possibly prove a source of trouble and expense to the principal actors therein. Not wishing to prejudge any such cases, we shall not particularize them by mentioning names, but we allude to the subject in the hope that measures may be taken to make public the penalties parties are liable to incur, who, through ignorance may forcibly resist any officer of the law while performing the necessary but frequently unpleasant duties attached to his position.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LAW RELATIVE TO INQUESTS.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

SIR,—I saw in a Belleville paper of last week's publication, the question asked,—When is it necessary to hold an inquest on the body of a deceased person? I think the question might be answered by referring to the duties of Coroners in the act passed 13 & 14 V., c. 56, sec. 1st. It reads thus:—

"No inquest shall be held on the body of any deceased person by any Coroner, until it has been made to appear to such Coroner that there is reason to believe that the deceased died from violence or unfair means, or by culpable or negligent conduct either of himself or of others, under such circumstances as require investigation, and not through mere accident or mischance."

The second section of the same reads thus:—

"But upon the death of any prisoner, or of any lunatic confined in any lunatic asylum, the warden gaoler, keeper, or superintendent of any penitentiary, gaol, prison, house of correction, lock-up house, house of Industry or Lunatic Asylum in which prisoner or lunatic dies, shall immediately give notice thereof to some Coroner of the County or City in which such death has taken place, and such Coroner shall proceed forthwith to hold an Inquest upon the body."

Now, Mr. Editor, if you can spare a corner in your paper to publish the foregoing as stated in the Statutes of Canada, I presume it would be interesting to your readers to know what the law says upon the subject. As many sudden deaths have taken place in Madoc of late, the public will better understand when it is necessary to call on a Coroner.

I remain, yours truly, A SUBSCRIBER.

MADOC, Dec. 30th, 1862.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me a space in your paper for the following statement.

A vast deal has been written and said about an Inquest lately held by me, and many errors have arisen in the matter, which I am sure our worthy Reeve will be the first to wish rectified.

Having received notice of the death, I proceeded to the village of Madoc, and on arriving there made inquiries as to the circumstances, and from the information I received, conceived it necessary to hold an inquest. The jury assembled under my warrant, and the only objection, as far as I know, was made by the foreman, who asked me, if I thought it necessary, as he did not; to whom I stated that I should not hold one if I did not think so; this was all that passed. As to the words in the Act, the Reeve is correct in his quotation, but that Act must be interpreted in conjunction with the circumstances of the case. Thus, if a man gets intoxicated and through his inebriety is the cause of the death of another man, it is "culpable negligence:" and from the information I received, I supposed such was the case. In any case, I think it is better to hold an unnecessary inquest than to omit holding an inquest of undoubted necessity. I remember a case, before I acted as Coroner, where a woman who had been ill-treated by her husband, died and was buried with marks of violence upon her body, but no inquest was held, because, as I was informed, the husband begged there might not be any, and some persons said it was not necessary, although it was stated that the person who had attended the deceased declared an inquest ought to be held.

As to the economy in the late case, the jury called for two medical men, to whom I was bound to give an order upon the Treasurer for their fees, which together amounted to more than my own.

In all cases, some are for holding an inquest and others for not doing so; and a Coroner, however willing he may be to act in courtesy, should never allow his own conviction of what is right, to be biassed by the opinions of others. The Act of this Colony is a transcript of the British law, and it has been decided by the Courts there that a Coroner is to hold an inquest where a person is slain "*per infortunum* simply" such as a fall, &c., and if he neglects to hold inquest upon view of the body slain, he shall forfeit for every default 100s.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

CHARLES GREAM, Coroner.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MADOC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A MEETING OF THE ABOVE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD at the VILLAGE OF HASTINGS, on SATURDAY, the SEVENTEENTH day of JANUARY, 1863.

W. FINDLAY, Secretary.

Madoc, 8th Jan., 1863.

To Let, for a Term of Three or Five Years,

THE WELL-KNOWN TAVERN STAND of JAMES JOHNSTON, on Lot No. 13, in the Fifth Concession of Madoc with Five Acres of Land attached. For terms, which will be reasonable, apply on the premises.

D. C. BROWN,

BLACKSMITH, HORSESHOER, &c.

JOBBING DONE AT ALL TIMES.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS WILLIAM MUMBY has by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that he be granted the Hastings Road Allowance in lieu of the present road now travelled through Lot No. 28, in the 5th Concession, Madoc.—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties objecting to the prayer of said petition will have to appear before said Council at their next regular meeting, when they will be heard, and of which due intimation will be given.

By Order, W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS THOMAS THOMSON AND OTHERS have by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that the said Thomas Thomson be granted the allowance of road across the west end of Lot No. 25, in the 5th Concession, Madoc, in lieu of the road now travelled across said lot.—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties having objections thereto will be heard by the said Council at their next regular meeting, of which due intimation will be given. By Order, W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

DR. THWAITES,

Madoc.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER,

MADOC.

MR. GREAM,

(Solicitor and Attorney of the Chancery and Law Courts of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.,

West Half of Lot 20 in the 7th Concession of Madoc.

MR. GREAM will attend in Madoc Village every Saturday.

W. FINDLAY,

Town Clerk, Conveyancer, Notary Public, &c.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc.

THE RUSSELL HOUSE, MADOC,

By A. Snider,

Corner of Madawaska and Donald Streets.

A FIRST CLASS HOUSE, IN the business part of the town. A Good Yard and Stabling.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

MR. EDITOR,—I am much obliged to you for the favourable notice you have been pleased to take of my STRIKING AND GAY LOOKING STAGE STATION. Permit me through your columns to inform my friends and the travelling public that I am not only prepared to take them through to Beaver Creek on the mail days, but am ready on any other day in the week to serve my friends and customers; not only to Beaver Creek but to all parts of the County.

If I am not able from press of business to take passengers myself, they may depend on having a steady and obliging driver sent with them.

I remain, Your obedient Serrant,

LYMAN MOON.

Madoc, 13th Dec., 1862.

MADOC HOUSE.

NEW GOODS,

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, HARDWARE, GROCERIES, COAL OIL LAMPS, BOOTS & SHOES, &c., &c., &c.

Cash paid for Grain and Potash.

Madoc, Nov., 1862.

DEANS & GRAY,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

JAMES DEANS. **Madoc.** ROBERT T. GRAY.

NEW STORE AT MADOC.

A. B ROSS & BROTHER,

DEALERS IN STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES, LEATHER, &c.

The Highest Price in Cash paid for Potash.

A. B. ROSS. S. D. ROSS.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

A. F. WOOD, Madoc.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

G. D. RAWE,

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER,

DIVISION STREET, MADOC.

MEDICAL HALL.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

JOHN DALE,

DEALER IN STOVES, TINWARE, SHEET IRON, &c.—A Large Assortment of COOKING and BOX STOVES always on hand.

ANDREW WRIGHT,

BAKER AND CONFECTIONER, East Side, Durham street, Madoc.—A Large Assortment of Liquors, Groceries, and Provisions always on hand.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,

MADOC.

S. TEMPLE,

Boot and Shoe Maker,

MUMBY'S MILLS.

REPAIRING DONE WITH NEATNESS AND DISPATCH.

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

SATURDAY, Jan. 10th, 1863.

ASHES	$6 ₱ cwt.
BARLEY	
OATS	35 to 40 cents.
WHEAT	80 to 90 cents.
PEAS	50 to 60 cents.
HIDES	$4 to $4 50.
PORK	$8¾ to $9 ₱ bbl.
BUTTER	12½ cents ₱ lb.
HAY	$12 ₱ ton.

BANNOCKBURN PRICES CURRENT.

WHEAT	90 @ 95
OATS	35 @ 37½
PEAS	45 @ 50
BUCKWHEAT	20 @ 25
ASHES, ₱ 112 lb. 28s 9d.	
BUTTER.	
HIDES. $4 25 @ $4 50.	
HAY $12.	
STRAW $1 50 @ $2 00 per load.	
POTATOES, 25c @ 30c.	

Jan. 10th, 1863.

MARY MOORE.

CHAPTER I.

All my life long I had known Mary Moore. All my life I loved her.

Our mothers were old playmates and first cousins. My first recollection is of a boy, in a red frock and morocco shoes, rocking a cradle, in which reposed a sunny haired, blue eyed baby, not quite a year old. That boy was myself—Harry Church; that blue eyed baby was Mary Moore.

Later still, I see myself at the little school house, drawing my little chaise up to the door that Mary might ride home. Many a beating have I gained on such occasions, for other boys besides me liked her, and she, I fear, was something of a flirt, even in her pinafores. How elegantly she came tripping down the steps, when I called her name! how sweetly her blue eyes looked up at me! how gaily rang out her merry laugh! That fairy laugh! No one but Mary could ever bring her heart so soon to her lips! I followed that laugh from my days of childhood till I grew an awkward, blushing youth—I followed it through the heated noon of manhood—and now, when the frosts of age are silvering my hair, and many children climb my knee and call me "father," I find that the memories of youth are strong, and that, even in gray hairs I am following its music still.

When I was fifteen, the first great sorrow of my life came upon my heart. I was sent to school, and was obliged to part with Mary. We were not to see each other for three long years! This to me was like a sentence of death, for Mary was like life itself to me.

But hearts are tough things after all.

I left college in all the flush and vigour of my nineteenth year. I was no longer awkward and embarrassed. I had grown into a tall, slender stripling, with a very good opinion of myself both in general and particular. If I thought of Mary Moore, it was to imagine how I would dazzle and bewilder her with my good looks and wonderful attainments—never thinking that she might dazzle and bewilder me. I was a sad coxcomb, I know, but, as youth and good looks have fled, I trust I may be believed when I say that self conceit has left me also.

An advantageous proposal was made to me at this time, and, accepting it, I gave up all ideas of a profession, and prepared to go to the Indies. In my hurried visit home of two or three days, I saw nothing of Mary Moore. She had gone to a boarding school at a distance, and was not expected home till the next May. I uttered one sigh to the memory of my little blue eyed playmate, and then called myself "a man again."

'In a year,' I thought, as the vehicle whirled away from our door—'in a year, or three years at the very most, I will return, and, if Mary is as pretty as she used to be, why then, perhaps I may marry her.'

And thus I settled the future of a young lady whom I had not seen for four years. I never thought of the possibility of her refusing me—never dreamed that she would not condescend to accept my offer.

But now I know that, had Mary met me then, she would have despised me. Perhaps, in the secluded and affected student she might have found plenty of sport; but, as for loving me, or feeling the slightest interest in me, I should have perhaps found I was mistaken.

India was my salvation, not merely because of my success, but because my laborious industry had counteracted the evil in my nature, and made me a better man. When, at the end of three years, I prepared to return, I said nothing of the reformation in myself which I knew had taken place.

'They loved me as I was,' I murmured to myself, 'and they shall find out for themselves whether I am better worth loving than formerly.'

I packed up many a token, from that land of romance and gold, for the friends I hoped to meet. The gift for Mary Moore I selected with a beating heart. It was a ring of rough, virgin gold, with my name and hers engraved inside—that was all, and yet the sight of the little toy strangely thrilled me, as I balanced it upon the tip of my finger.

To the eyes of others, it was but a small plain circlet, suggesting thoughts, perhaps, by its elegance, of the beautiful white hand that was to wear it. But to me—how much was embodied there! A loving smile on a beautiful face—how words of welcome—a future home, and a sweet, smiling face—a group of merry children to climb my knee—all these delights were hidden within that little ring of gold!

CHAPTER II.

Tall, bearded, and sun bronzed, I knocked at the door of my father's house. The lights in the parlour windows, and the hum of conversation and cheerful laughter, showed me that company were assembled there. I hoped my sister Lizzie would come to the door, and that I might greet my family when no strange eye was looking curiously on.

But no—a servant answered my summons. They were too merry in the parlour to heed the long absent one, when he asked for admittance. A bitter thought like this was passing through my mind, as I heard the sounds from the parlour, and saw the half-suppressed smile upon the servant's face.

I hesitated for a moment before I made myself known, or asked after the family. And while I stood silent, a strange apparition grew up before me. From behind the servant peered out a small golden head—a tiny, delicate form followed and a sweet, childish face, with blue eyes was lifted up to mine—so like to those of one who had brightened my boyhood, that I started back with a sudden feeling of pain.

'What is your name, my little one?' I asked, while the wondering servant held the door.

She lifted up her hand as if to shade her eyes (I had seen that very attitude in another, in my boyhood, many and many a time) and answered, in a sweet, birdlike voice—

'Mary Moore.'

'And what else?' I asked quickly.

'Mary Moore Chester,' lisped the child.

My heart sank down like lead. Here was an end to all the bright dreams and hopes of my youth and manhood! Frank Chester, my boyish rival, who had often tried, and tried in vain, to usurp my place beside the girl, had succeeded at last, and had won her away from me! This was his child—his child and Mary's!

I sank, body and soul, beneath this blow. And hiding my face in my hands, I leaned against the door while my heart wept tears of blood. The little one gazed at me, grieved and amazed, and put up her lip as if about to cry, while the perplexed servant stepped to the parlour door and called my sister out to see who it could be that conducted himself so strangely.

I heard a light step, and a pleasant voice saying—

'Did you wish to see my father, sir?'

I looked up. There stood a pretty, sweet faced maiden of twenty, not much changed from the dear little sister I had loved so well. I looked at her a moment and then, still ing the tumult of my heart by a mighty effort, I opened my arms, and said—

'Lizzie, don't you know me?'

'Harry!' Oh, my brother Harry!' she cried, and threw herself upon my breast. She wept as if her heart would break.

I could not weep. I drew her gently into the lighted parlour, and stood with her before them all.

There was a rush and cry of joy, and then my father and mother sprang towards me, and welcomed me home with heartfelt tears! Oh, strange and passing sweet is such a greeting to the way worn wanderer! And, as I held my dear old mother to my heart, and grasped my father's hand, while Lizzie still clung beside me, I felt that all was not yet lost, and, though another had secured life's choicest blessing, many a joy remained to me in this dear sanctuary of home!

There were four other inmates of the room, who had arisen on my sudden entrance. One was the blue-eyed child whom I had already seen, and who now stood beside Frank Chester clinging to his hand. Near by stood Lizzie Moore. Mary's eldest sister, and in a distant corner, to which she had horridly retreated when my name was spoken, stood a tall and slender figure, half hidden by the heavy window curtains that fell to the floor.

When the first rapturous greeting was over, Lizzie led me forward with a timid grace, and Frank Chester grasped my hand.

'Welcome home, my boy!' he said with the loud cheerful tones I remembered so well. 'You have changed so, that I should never have known you; but no matter for that—your heart is in the right place, I know.'

'How can you say he is changed!' said my mother gently. 'To be sure, he looks older and graver, and more like a man than when he went away—but his eyes and the smile are the same as ever.' It is that heavy beard that changes him. He is my boy still.'

'Ay, mother,' I answered sadly: 'I am your boy still.'

Heaven help me! At that moment I felt like a boy, and it would have been a blessed relief to have wept upon her bosom, as I had done in my infancy. But I kept down the beating of my heart and the tremor of my lip, and answered quietly, as I looked in his full, handsome face—

'You have changed too, Frank, but I think for the better.'

'Oh, yes—thank you for that compliment,' he answered with a hearty laugh. 'My wife tells me I grow handsomer every day.'

His wife!—could I hear that name and keep silence still?

'And have you seen my little girl?' he added, lifting the infant in his arms, and kissing her crimson cheek. 'I tell you, Harry, there is not such another in the world. Don't you think she looks very much as her mother used?'

'Very much!' I faltered.

'Hallo!' cried Frank, with a suddenness that made me start violently. 'I have forgotten to introduce you to my wife; I believe you and she used to be playmates in your young days—eh, Harry?' and he slapped me on the back. 'For the sake of old times, and because you were not present at the wedding, I'll give you leave to kiss her once—but mind, old fellow, you are never to repeat the ceremony. Come—here she is, and I for once want to see how you will manage those ferocious moustaches of yours in the operation.'

He pushed Lizzie, laughing and blushing, towards me! A gleam of light and hope, almost too dazzling to bear, came over me, and I cried out before I thought—

'Not Mary!'

It must have betrayed my secret to every one in the room. But nothing was said—even Frank, in general so obtuse, was this time silent. I kissed the fair cheek of the young wife, and hurried to the silent figure looking out from the window.

'Mary—Mary Moore,' I said, in a low, eager voice, 'have you no welcome to give to the wanderer?'

She turned and laid her hand in mine, and murmured hurriedly—

'I am glad to see you here, Harry.'

Simple words—and yet how blest they made me! I would not have yielded up that moment for an emperor's crown! For there was the happy home group, and the dear home fireside, and there sweet Mary Moore! The eyes I had dreamed of by day and night were falling before the ardent gaze of mine; and the sweet face I had so longed and prayed to see, was there before me—more beautiful, more womanly, and more loving, than before! I never knew the meaning of happiness till that moment came!

Many years have passed since that happy night, and the hair that was dark and glossy then is fast turning grey. I am growing to be an old man, and can look back to a long and happy, and, I hope, a well spent life. And yet, sweet as it has been, I would not recal a single day, for the love that made my manhood so bright, shines also upon me in my white hairs.

An old man! Can this be so? At heart, I am as young as ever. And Mary, with her bright hair parted smoothly from a brow that has a slight furrow upon it, is still the Mary of my early days. To me she can never grow old, nor change. The heart that held her in infancy, and sheltered her in the flush and beauty of womanhood, can never cast her out till life shall cease to warm it. Nor even then—for love still lives above.

VARIETIES.

A venerable but frisky citizen of Cincinnati, aged 55 years, was recently fined $1 and costs, for kissing a young lady, without her leave.

The Prince of Wales' first act on coming into his estates, was to send £1,000 to the Lancashire Relief Fund.

A Novel Reason.—One man asked another why his beard was brown, and his hair white? "Because," he said "one is twenty years younger than the other."

Fruit trees have military characteristics. When young, they are trained, they have kernels, and their shoots are straight.

The Lawyer and the Quaker.—A cunning lawyer meeting with a shrewd old friend, on a white horse, determined to quiz him.—"Good morning, daddy! Pray, what makes your horse look so pale in the face?" "Ah! my dear friend," replied the old man, "if thee had looked through a halter so long, thee would look pale, too!"

The Hudson (N. Y.) Star states that on Dec. 16, there was a child born in Chatham, Columbia county, in a house where its mother, grandparents, great-grandparents, and great-great-grandmother are living,—five generations under one roof—the great-great-grandmother being ninety-five years of age.

Professor Roscoe, of Owens College, Manchester, and many other genuine philanthropists have inaugurated a scheme for relieving the forced leisure of the unemployed operatives, by gratuitous evening lectures in different parts of Lancashire. Professor Roscoe gave the first of these lectures to an audience of between 800 and 1,000 working men, in a large room of Lamb's Mill, Bengal street, Ancoats, on "The Air we Breathe." The audience are said to have been delighted, attentive, and grateful.

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

No. 8. MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1863. PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

THE BATTLE AT MURFREESBORO.

The struggle at Murfreesboro terminated after three ys' desperate fighting in the retreat of the Confe-rate forces, commanded by Gen. Bragg, under cover the night.—Gen. Rosecrans occupying the place next day. This result is due, according to some the Northern papers, to the excellent generalship played by Rosecrans, and the confidence inspired his personal intrepidity. There was need of such example, for after the surprise of the federal right g, under Gen. McCook, the brigades and regiments shed upon one another in disgraceful disorder, and rout of the division became irretrievable. The uthern leaders attribute their final retreat, after ting claimed a decisive success in the first place, to federals having received strong reinforcements er their reverses. Speaking of the last and unsuc-ssful charge of the Southerners, a Northern army rrespondent says :—"If their madness can be called avery, then, indeed, were those rebels brave. As if tuated by the hellish motive to do as much mischief possible before they died, they rushed up to the ry muzzles of our cannon and hurled their muskets the heads of our artillerymen; they also shouted monically when their hearts were pierced by bul-ts, and tumbled to the earth while endeavouring to ke another step in advance."—Can such men be whipped, aye, whipped into submission," as threat-ed by the "General," who edited a New York news-per, and went off as an ambassador as soon as the r had fairly commenced?

A Southern despatch, dated Chattanooga, Jan. 5th, ys :—We have retired from Murfreesboro in perfect der. All our stores are saved. About four thou-nd federal prisoners, five thousand stand of arms. d twenty-four pieces of cannon, captured by our ces, have already arrived here.—Gen. Bragg an-unces his retreat as follows :—Tullahoma, Jan. 5. nable to dislodge the enemy from his entrench-nts, and hearing of reinforcements to him, I with-w from his front, night before last. He has not lowed. My cavalry are close on his front.

The Northern loss is heavy, amounting to 1,00 lled, 5,000 to 7,000 wounded, and 4,000 prisoners. e Confederate loss is estimated by wounded officers from 12,000 to 15,000—a great proportion being ding officers.

Both sides claim the victory, yet neither at the rth nor at the South are all parties satisfied with e result. The Richmond Dispatch says:—"Gen. gg has certainly retreated to Shelbyville, thirty les from his victory at Murfreesboro; but if he has tired'—that is the fashionable phrase on our side, ' change of base ' is on the other—to Shelbyville. has thrown East Tennessee entirely open to the nkees. If Gen. Rosecrans once gets possession of 200,000 men cannot dislodge him." The N. Y. ncs says :—"The rebel sympathisers (that is, all o do not think exactly as the Times does) here-uts, broadly hint in public, and loudly insist on it rivate, that Gen. Rosecrans has met a tragical and strous whipping, and that Bragg remains master the situation in Tennessee."

Bragg is supposed to have retreated on account of want of sufficient supplies of food. The cutting the railroad in East Tennessee by a cavalry expe-on under Gen. Carter prevented the reinforcement of the Confederate army from Richmond, and the success of Rosecrans is doubtless in a great measure due to this cause.

DEFEAT OF THE FEDERAL EXPEDITION AGAINST VICKSBURG.

Immediately after the announcement of the capture of Baton Rouge by a portion of the forces under the command of Gen. Banks, it was rumoured that Port Hudson had been captured from, and Vicksburg evacuated by, the Confederates. Both rumours proved to be incorrect. It was next announced that after five days' fighting, Gen. Sherman had carried three lines of the enemy's works, and the firing on the fourth and last line had ceased, indicating that it also had been captured. All that lay between Gen. Sherman and the city was the trestle-work of the Jackson and Vicksburg railroad. He had been re-inforced by 9,000 men from Gen. Grant's army. "It was sufficiently evident the co-operation of the forces below would not be needed in reducing the rebel stronghold." "The news was everything that could be desired." Then came another despatch stating that the conflict was still raging, with no decisive results. "Our army is well posted, and will not yield the contest till Vicksburg is in their possession. Our loss in killed and wounded, so far, is estimated at 3,000." Another account puts the number at 4,000 to 5,000.

A despatch from Cairo, Ill., dated the 7th, says :—"We have one day's later intelligence, which is highly interesting and exciting. The rebels have concentrated all their forces from Jackson and Grenada along the line of the road, amounting to 65,000 men, at Vicksburg. This overwhelming force attacked Gen. Sherman on Monday, and caused him to fall back to his first line of defence. The fighting on Sunday is represented as desperate in the extreme. Batteries and fortifications were taken and retaken. Whole regiments, and even brigades, fought hand to hand over guns, and for possession of the defences. The Fourth Iowa Regiment lost 600 men, killed wounded and missing. Gen. Hovey, with 1,500 men, was sent out to execute a special order, but since then has not been heard from. Fears are entertained for his safety. Nothing has yet been heard from the National forces below, nor can we learn that our gunboats have taken any part in the action. It is reported that rebel steamers are crossing from the Louisiana shore to Vicksburg, and it is supposed they are carrying reinforcements to the rebels."

On the 2nd inst., Gen. Pemberton, commanding the Confederate forces at Vicksburg, telegraphed to the Secretary of War that the enemy, finding all his efforts unavailing to make any inroads on the position, had re-embarked, leaving a considerable quantity of intrenching tools and other property, and apparently had relinquished his designs upon the place.

Commenting upon the above, the N. Y. Times declared the supposition that the job of capturing Vicksburg is given over, is simply absurd. Authentic accounts, still later, by way of Cairo, represent, however, that Sherman's repulse was complete. The entire force, under the direction of McClernand, re-embarked on transports, closely pursued by the Confederate advance, which, on coming within range of the gunboats, was driven back with severe loss. At last accounts, the entire fleet of transports with the troops had arrived at Island 82, on their way to Napoleon.

Advices from New Orleans report that the Confederates have 12,000 men and thirty guns at Port Hudson. The earthworks are said to be four miles in extent.

There is nothing definite from Gen. Banks and Admiral Farragut, though rumours of their advance are in circulation.

SUCCESSFUL CONFEDERATE ATTACK AT GALVESTON, TEXAS.

THE HARRIET LANE BOARDED AND CAPTURED. THE FLAGSHIP AND COMMODORE RENSHAW BLOWN UP. SURRENDER OF THE FEDERAL FORCES.

Early on the morning of the 1st, the Confederates made an attack by land and water on the field forces at Galveston. The gunboats were attacked by five Confederate steamers, protected by double rows of bales of cotton, and loaded with troops armed with muskets, rifles, &c. The Harriet Lane was captured, by boarding, after nearly all her officers, including Captain Wainwright and Lieutenant Lee and the crew (130, all told) had been killed by musketry from the Confederate steamers. It is stated that but one or two of the officers and but ten or twelve of the crew escaped death. The gunboats Clifton and Owasco were engaged and escaped, the former losing no men, and but one wounded. The Owasco lost one killed and 13 wounded. Two barques loaded with coal fell into the hands of the enemy. The Westfield, the flagship of Commodore Renshaw, was not engaged, she being ashore in another channel. Her crew were transferred to transports, and Renshaw, fearing she would fall into the hands of the Confederates, blew her up. By some mismanagement or accident the explosion occurred before the boat containing Renshaw, Lieutenant Zimmerman and the boat's crew, got away, and they were consequently blown up with the ship. The crew of the Westfield arrived at New Orleans on transports, and the remaining troops are on the way back. They did not arrive until the place had been evacuated. All the fleet are on the way to New Orleans. The Confederate force was estimated at about 5,000, under Gen. Magruder; the U. S. land force, under command of Col. Burrill, of Massachusetts, probably did not exceed 300, the residue not having arrived, or not being disembarked in time to fight. The loss was estimated at 150 to 200 killed, and 200 taken prisoners. The navy suffered most.

It is thought that the Confederate loss was much more, as grape and cannister were continually fired in their midst.

The Confederates had several batteries on shore.

The Federal troops were on one of the long wharves, and it is said they repulsed two charges of the Confederates before they surrendered.

CHARLESTON AND OTHER SOUTHERN SEA-COAST CITIES EXPECT TO BE ATTACKED.

A despatch from Kingston, N. C., dated Jan. 8, says the enemy are making immense preparations for an advance. Reinforcements are daily arriving from Suffolk. The Yankees at Moorhead City and Newbern are about 50,000 strong, under Gen. Foster. They will probably attack Charleston, Wilmington, Weldon and Goldsboro simultaneously.

Fort Sumter, at Charleston, S. C., is said to be plated with railroad iron.

A report is published in Southern papers that Gen. Hindman had executed ten Yankee officers in retaliation for the McNeil butchery.

It was currently rumoured in New York that Commodore Wilkes had been removed from command of the flying squadron, for having failed to obey orders relative to intercepting the Alabama.

Rumours are current at New Orleans that President Davis is preparing an expedition to retake the city.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

A Weekly Journal of Local and General Information,

Will be Published every Saturday Morning, at Two Cents a Copy, or One Dollar a Year, STRICTLY in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE INSERTED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS FOR CASH:—

Six lines, first insertion	0 50
Each subsequent insertion	0 12½
Six to ten lines, first insertion	0 70
Each subsequent insertion	0 16
Above ten lines (per line) first insertion	0 07
Each subsequent insertion, per line	0 02

All Communications for the MERCURY to be addressed, (post-paid) to A. SMALLFIELD, Madoc Post Office.

For sale at WILSON'S MEDICAL HALL, *Madoc, where Subscribers in and near the village may obtain their copies, and orders for the paper and advertisements will obligingly be received.*

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

The Ionian Islands are positively to be given up to Greece, while the poor little kingdom is clamorously protesting it will have no other king but Alfred. The persistence of the Greeks on this point is marvellous, and may be pondered by certain of our defamers who are perpetually announcing a universal distrust towards Great Britain. A letter from Athens states that the National Assembly will probably proclaim our young Prince as Sovereign, and appoint a Regent to fill his place while England is supplicated to concede her son! The abandonment of expensive military establishments at Corfu may enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the coming session, to cut down *pro tanto* his estimates. Retrenchment is the cry, if not the order, of the day.—*Albion.*

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17.

RETRENCHMENT REQUIRED.

The coming session of Parliament promises to be replete with stirring events. The Intercolonial Railroad, Militia Bill, and Bankrupt Bill are of themselves sufficient to raise storms that may terminate in hurricanes, and prove the destruction of those at present at the helm of the ship of State. It seems to us there can be no shirking these questions, of such vital importance to the country. The Administration is pledged, and the country expects them to stand or fall by the promised reforms.

Apparently, no Ministry formed from a party pure and simple on the basis of old party lines can long stand in Canada. In fact, it is well perhaps that it is so, for bitter party strife (as is too painfully proved by the experience of the United States) engenders a disposition to tyranny and despotism, causing a tendency to carry out the principle of "to the victors belong the spoils." Coalitions are considered by many clever statesmen as the safest Government a country can have. One thing is certain, that in such cases extreme views are modified; a desire to convince springs up—and takes the place of the regular party feeling of no quarter to your opponents.

It is to be hoped that whether the present Government stands the test or not, that the principle of retrenchment will not be forgotten or abandoned. It is one thing to acknowledge the correctness of the principle and another to carry it out.

Since the present Administration came into power, a number of dismissals from office have taken place: whether for the purpose of effecting a reduction in the expenditure or to make a vacancy for a friend it is hard to tell—for appointments follow so closely on the heels of dismissals that to us it seems less like retrenchment than a change of office holders. Be this as it may, the present Government have laid down the principle of retrenchment. The people feel it is highly necessary, and no government—be it Gritty or Reform, Tory or Moderate—can long ignore its practical adoption. *Vox populi* in the main is right, and in power is often *Vox Dei* to the Ministry of the day.

THE LICENSE LAW.

The present License Law of Canada has many good features, and if honestly carried out must produce a good effect upon the too common tendency to dissipation and drunkenness. Township Councils have the power to pass By-Laws prohibiting the sale and traffic in ardent spirits—regulating public houses and punishing delinquents. We understand that a very stringent By-Law has been passed by the Council of Madoc, and only requires to be put in force to produce good effects. But is this done? We fear not. The By-Law sets forth that there shall be three places out of the village of Hastings that shall be allowed to retail liquor by the glass; and yet it is currently reported that there are eight or nine places where liquor is so retailed.

"No swearing, drunkenness, gambling, or improper conduct of any kind shall be allowed in any licensed tavern," says the By-Law, "on pain of forfeiture of license and punishment by fine." Still we fear, with a few exceptions, all these things are allowed. Well, who is to blame? In conversation with the Reeve, we learned that it was almost impossible to get any one, even those who suffer most, to complain. This is a mistake. The community should unite to put down everything injurious to public morals and contrary to the laws of the land. We hope the new Council will take all the measures in their power to carry out the By-Laws of the Municipality, and none more particularly than the one regulating the sale of intoxicating drinks.

A BLOODY RECORD, AND STILL BLOODIER PROSPECT.

On the 1st of January, 1862, the Southern Commissioners, Mason and Slidell, who had been forcibly removed by Captain Wilkes from the mail steamer Trent, were, upon the demand of Great Britain, "cheerfully given up," by the United States Government, as very unimportant individuals, in consequence of the waning proportions of the "insurrection." We all know how mistaken that idea was, and at what terrible cost of human life and misery the United States, during the ensuing year, purchased whatever successes they may have gained, and the Confederate States have so far maintained their independence. Upon our first page will be found a brief review of the struggles with which the new year has already commenced, showing the increased area over which the contest has extended, and the numerous points at which preparations are making for further attacks. One somewhat doubtful victory, and two decided repulses of the Federal forces, were alike distinguished by the desperate determination with which the Southerners continue to defend every inch of their territory; while it is rumoured they contemplate attempting to gain repossession of the city of New Orleans. If both sides persist in carrying out their programmes, the next few weeks will witness bloodier work than has yet occurred during this lamentable and unnecessary war, with possibly the aggravated horrors of a stimulated servile insurrection.

THE UNITED STATES, ENGLAND AND CANADA.

It is universally asserted and believed in the United States that "Englishmen cannot understand our institutions and government." Seeing that their boasted Constitution is to a great extent a copy of the articles of Union between England and Scotland, and their municipal institutions are by no means peculiar to themselves, we should have felt inclined to dispute the correctness of the assertion, but for the fact they are fighting among themselves to settle what those institutions really are. Till they have decided the point, we are content to be twitted about our hopeless ignorance. It is possible, also, there may be a certain degree of national obtuseness on our part, as our quicker-witted and more enlightened neighbours can see little in England but crimes, faults and follies on a gigantic scale, and close as they are to Canada, continually delude themselves with the notion that here we share their dissatisfaction against the mother country, and are anxiously awaiting an opportunity to link our destiny with theirs. There is no inducement that we can see,—with the certainty of heavy taxation, in its most objectionable forms, and a strong probability of our local rights of self-government being trampled on, and personal liberties infringed, as is now the fashion in the United States. Assuming, however, that Canada is ready to cut loose from, and liable to be cast adrift by, England, the knowing ones on the other side are not agreed whether she is an "un-nourishing mother" or is bestowing a liberal "patrimony" ere starting us on our own hook. It will be seen that conscience has made cowards of some of our belligerent neighbours. They need not be alarmed as long as they let us alone.

From the New York Journal of Commerce.

THE FEELING IN CANADA.—A Western paper, professing to have good sources of information, has put in circulation disquieting rumours in regard to military preparations in Canada. We are probably able to state the exact truth respecting this subject, as our informant is an American gentleman who for several months past has resided in Quebec and enjoyed facilities for learning the real disposition of the Canadian Government toward the United States. We learn from this source that the fact is indisputable that enormous quantities of ammunition and not less than 200,000 stand of small arms have been received in Canada from England within the last few months, besides artillery. Vessels laden with warlike materials have been seen discharging cannon at the ordnance wharf in Quebec, while others passed on to distribute their cargoes at various points up the lakes. This, however, is not construed as indicating anything hostile to the United States. On the contrary, the disposition of the present Canadian ministry is very friendly. The Premier, Hon. J. S. Macdonald, married a lady from Louisiana, but he is a strong believer in the power of the North and its recuperative energy. Our informant believes the true explanation of these military movements, which have excited so much suspicion in some quarters, to be that, not only in Canada but in England, there exists a conviction that eventually the North American colonies must establish themselves as an independent government. Their connection with the mother country is of little advantage to either party; so, whatever the result of the rebellion in the United States, the tendency is rather toward a dissolution of the old relationship. It is surmised that England, therefore, not to cast off her offspring in a helpless state, with war raging so near, chooses this time to provide a sort of patrimony, in the shape of arms, &c.

It is not true that the guns in the fortress at Quebec have been replaced by a new armament. Those now in position are the same that have been there since the time of Montgomery and Montcalm, and

would avail little in a conflict with modern guns and artillery.

The general tone of sentiment in Canada is anything but hostile to this country. The feeling is that the destiny of the Provinces is inseparably linked with that of the United States, and their interests in a great measure identical. It is only in certain cliques that the secession spirit prevails.

From Beecher's Sermon on the President's Emancipation Proclamation.

(Delivered on Sunday evening, Jan. 4, before an audience of the "most intelligent and select character.")

Speaking of England, he said that for 150 years she had fed and fattened on the commerce of Asia, in China and India, and now she has not Christianity enough to roll an opium pill into the ocean, or to break a cotton thread. "Oh," said he, "of all the nations that have ever ground down the common people, and eaten them up, England stands foremost." He should say no more about her, as he had no desire to deepen and strengthen the ill-feeling that now exists toward her. He paid a glowing compliment to the Czar of Russia for his efforts in the cause of emancipation, and then turned to Canada. Unmentioned in our inventory of American States, shining with peculiar brightness in the present, with a prospect of a most glorious future, is Canada. God bless Canada! The umbilical cord which connects this young nation with its un-nourishing mother ought to be cut!—[This style of talk is the way to draw crowded 'houses' of 'select' ladies on Sunday.]—Again, and from his heart, he said, God bless her; and when she holds aloft, in the future, her own proud flag, she can say it has never yet waved over a single slave.

If Mr. Beecher thinks that the abuse of Great Britain, which is so relished in Brooklyn—or the artful allusion as to the duty of insurrection, so anatomically described—will render him popular in Canada, he will find himself mistaken if ever he comes this way to seek applause.

"From the exertions of the runners and various forwarding companies, the Bay of Quinte section of the country has long been a sufferer, and from this cause land to-day is fifty per cent. cheaper in this section of the country than any place farther West. This is so notorious that parties, acquainted with the country, are now selling out farms to the Westward, and investing in this neighbourhood. Several have done so this winter, and if what we hear be true, others will follow their example in the spring."—*Chronicle.*

And we know of parties who have come from the Front this way, on account of the greater healthiness of the climate, as well as lower prices of land; and now that there is good sleighing, furniture is seen on its way northward almost daily.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

MADOC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A MEETING OF THE ABOVE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD at the VILLAGE OF HASTINGS, on SATURDAY, the SEVENTEENTH day of JANUARY, 1863.

W. FINDLAY, Secretary.

Madoc, 8th Jan., 1863.

To Let, for a Term of Three or Five Years,

THE WELL-KNOWN TAVERN STAND of JAMES JOHNSTON, on Lot No. 13, in the Fifth Concession of Madoc, with Five Acres of Land attached. For terms, which will be reasonable, apply on the premises.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS WILLIAM MUMBY has by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that he be granted the Hastings Road Allowance in lieu of the present road now travelled through Lot No. 28, in the 5th Concession, Madoc,—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties objecting to the prayer of said petition will have to appear before said Council at their next regular meeting, when they will be heard, and of which due intimation will be given.

By Order, W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS THOMAS THOMSON AND OTHERS have by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that the said Thomas Thomson be granted the allowance of road across the west end of Lot No. 5, in the 5th Concession, Madoc, in lieu of the road now travelled across said lot,—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties having objections thereto will be heard by the said Council at their next regular meeting, of which due intimation will be given.

By Order, W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

DR. THWAITES,

Madoc.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER,

MADOC.

MR. GREAM,

(Soliciter and Attorney of the Chancery and Law Courts of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.,

West Half of Lot 20 in the 7th Concession of Madoc.

MR. GREAM will attend in Madoc Village every Saturday.

W. FINDLAY,

Town Clerk, Conveyancer, Notary Public, &c.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,

MADOC.

MEDICAL HALL.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

JOHN DALE,

DEALER IN STOVES, TINWARE, SHEET IRON, &c.—A Large Assortment of COOKING and BOX STOVES always on hand.

ANDREW WRIGHT,

BAKER AND CONFECTIONER, East Side, Durham street, Madoc.—A Large Assortment of Liquors, Groceries, and Provisions always on hand.

NEW STORE AT MADOC.

A. B. ROSS & BROTHER,

DEALERS IN STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES, LEATHER, &c.

The Highest Price in Cash paid for Potash.

A. B. ROSS. S. D. ROSS.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

A. F. WOOD, Madoc.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

G. D. RAWE,

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER,

DIVISION STREET, MADOC.

MADOC HOUSE.

NEW GOODS.

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, HARDWARE, GROCERIES' COAL OIL LAMPS, BOOTS & SHOES, &c., &c., &c.

Cash paid for Grain and Potash.

Madoc, Nov., 1862.

DEANS & GRAY,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

Madoc.

JAMES DEANS. ROBERT T. GRAY.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

MR. EDITOR,—I am much obliged to you for the favourable notice you have been pleased to take of my STRIKING AND GAY LOOKING STAGE SLEIGH. Permit me, through your columns to inform my friends and the travelling public that I am not only prepared to take them through to Beaver Creek on the mail days, but am ready on any other day in the week, to serve my friends and customers, not only to Beaver Creek but to all parts of the County.

If I am not able from press of business to take passengers myself, they may depend on having a steady and obliging driver sent with them.

I remain, Your obedient Servant,

LYMAN MOON.

Madoc, 13th Dec., 1862.

D. C. BROWN,

BLACKSMITH, HORSESHOER, &c.

JOBBING DONE AT ALL TIMES.

THE RUSSELL HOUSE, MADOC,

By A. Snider,

Corner of Madawaska and Donald Streets.

A FIRST CLASS HOUSE, IN the business part of the town. A Good Yard and Stabling.

S. TEMPLE,

Boot and Shoe Maker,

MUMBY'S MILLS.

REPAIRING DONE WITH NEATNESS AND DISPATCH.

THE INTELLIGENCER,

A WEEKLY POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER, published in Belleville by MACKENZIE BOWELL, at $2 a year. It is the oldest paper published in the County of Hastings, and one of the oldest in the Province, being in its 28th year.

Published every Friday Morning, corner of Front and Bridge Streets, Belleville, C. W. Terms:—Two Dollars per annum, if called for at the office, or sent by mail; and Two Dollars and a half per annum, when delivered by the carrier, payable in all cases in advance. When not paid till after the close of the year, Fifty Cents will be added to each year's subscription.

No Paper discontinued until all arrears are paid up, except at the option of the Publisher.

TO RENT, OR EXCHANGE

FOR A SUITABLE HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE

THE LARGE FRAME BUILDING,

On the North-East Corner of Lot No. 23, in the Fifth Concession of Madoc,

IMMEDIATELY ADJOINING KELLAR'S BRIDGE,

Well Adapted either for a Store or Dwelling House.

For Particulars apply either on the spot to A. Smallfield, or if by letter, postpaid, at the Madoc Post Office.

BELLEVILLE BATTALION.—We are glad to learn that the Companies forming this Battalion, under command of Lieut.-Col. A. Ponton, are now filled up, and are being drilled by Sergeant Jacobs, of the 62nd Regt., who has been sent here for that purpose, from Kingston. The uniforms and rifles are shortly expected, and everything is being done by the officers of the different companies to forward the movement. Since our last, J. J. B. Flint has been elected Ensign in Capt. Wallbridge's company, and A. Diamond in Capt. Campbell's company.—*Chronicle.*

NARROW ESCAPE.—Mr. Edward Redick, the mail and express carrier between Belleville and Picton, had a narrow escape on the 8th inst. Redick lives across the bay, and every morning he comes over to Belleville after the Picton mail. In coming over on skates, when about half way across, the ice gave way, and Redick went down. He managed to get a foothold on the ice again, when it gave way the second time. Being a good swimmer, he succeeded in keeping up, breaking the ice before him for several rods, until he reached the firm ice, when he managed to crawl out on to the ice, and find his way home well nigh exhausted.—*Intelligencer.*

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

SATURDAY, Jan. 17th, 1863.

ASHES	₱ cwt.
BARLEY	
OATS	35 to 40 cents.
WHEAT	80 to 90 cents.
PEAS	50 to 60 cents.
HIDES	$4 to $4 50.
PORK	$3½ to $9 ₱ bbl.
BUTTER	12½ cents ₱ lb.
HAY	$12 ₱ ton.

BANNOCKBURN PRICES CURRENT.

WHEAT	$0 80 @ $0 85
OATS	35 @ 37½
PEAS	45 @ 50
BUCKWHEAT	20 @ 25
ASHES, ₱ 112 lb.	
BUTTER.	
HIDES, $4 25 @ $4 50.	
HAY, $12.	
STRAW, $1 50 @ $2 00 per load.	
POTATOES, 25c @ 30c.	

Jan. 17th, 1863.

BELLEVILLE MARKETS.

Spring Wheat, 2s 9d@3s 0d. Rye, 3s 0d. Barley, 2s 6d@3s 6d. Oats, 1s 9d. Peas, 2s 9d. Flour (Retail) ₱ bbl., 25s 0d. Flour, ₱ 100 lbs., 11s 3d@12 6d. Potash, ₱ cwt, 28s 0d. Hay, ₱ ton, 60s 0d@80s 0d. Potatoes, ₱ bushel, 1s 3d@1s 6d. Beef, ₱ cwt, 10s 0d@15s 0d. Pork, ₱ cwt., 12s 0d@20s 0d. Butter, ₱ lb 0s 7d@0s 8d. Eggs, ₱ doz., 0s 7d@0s 7½.

GOOD NIGHT.

Downward sinks the setting sun,
Soft the evening shadows fall;
Light is dying,
Day is dying,
Darkness stealeth over all.
Good night!

Autumn garners in her stores—
Poison of the fading year;
Leaves are dying,
Winds are sighing—
Whispering of the Winter near.
Good night!

Youth is vanished, manhood wanes;
Age its forward shadow throws;
Day is dying,
Years are flying,
Life runs onward to its close.
Good night!

THE MANIAC'S CONFESSION.

A FEW years ago I visited an insane asylum. The woman in charge conducted us through various apartments, giving us all the information in regard to the occupants she was able, and kindly answering all the questions, until we came to a room where one of the patients had lately died, and now lay awaiting the disposal of her friends, who had been apprised of her decease. We entered, and gazed reverently upon the face of the sleeper. She was a woman in the prime of life, and bore traces of great beauty. What great sorrow had bereft this beautiful creature of her reason? and by what relative, and for what motive, had she been incarcerated in this living tomb, were queries which were in my mind as I gazed upon her lifeless remains.

My eyes involuntarily wandered over the apartment. A little table stood in the corner, beneath the grated window. A Bible lay upon it, and as I took it up, a paper slid from between the leaves and fell at my feet. I raised it. It was a closely written sheet, and a glance convinced me that it was some sort of a revelation which had been written there during the last hours of the life that had died.

'What is this?' I asked, as I held up the paper.

'Oh, that is probably some of Aggy's scribbling. She used to call for pen and paper, and as she would be very quiet with them, I always gave them to her. She would write over several sheets, and then destroy them. That is probably one of them—of no consequence, I presume,' said the woman.

I asked if I might retain it.

'Why, yes, if you wish to,' she replied.

I hid it away in my bosom, and we soon left the premises.

'What could you possibly want of that crazy woman's scribbling?' my companion asked, as we left the building.

'I fancy there is something here worth preserving,' I replied. 'Let us examine it.'

As we rode homeward, I read it aloud to my friend. It was written in a trembling hand, and as follows:—

'I was the only and idolized daughter of wealthy parents. I possessed a haughty and imperious temper, which was never subdued or restrained. My parents were not religious, and no care was taken to impress upon my mind religious truths. Consequently I grew up unprincipled and extremely passionate. While every pains was taken with my education and accomplishments, my heart was left to run wild, overgrown, and choked by the briers and thorns of selfishness and love of tyranny; yet I was passionately attached to my friends, and as long as they did not cross my imperious will I got on nicely with them.

'Thus I grew to womanhood. Chance threw me into the society of a young lawyer of distinguished abilities, who had begun what was predicted to be a brilliant career. I soon learned to love him with all the depth of my passionate and impulsive nature; and was wild with joy, when one day he came to me, and in eloquent language told me how long and devotedly he had loved me, and asked me to be his wife.

'We were married. If I occasionally felt a twinge of distrust of my own qualifications for a wife, I soon silenced it with the argument that my love was strong enough to make up for all deficiences.

'My husband was all that was good, and noble, and generous. I was often passionate and unreasonable. But he would take me to his bosom, kiss me so tenderly, and say so gently, "You must subdue this unhappy temper, Aggy; it is making you miserable."

'Then when he was gone, I would fly to my chamber, lock the door, and give myself up to an uncontrollable fit of weeping for very shame.

'We had been married about a year. One evening (would to God I could blot from the record of time that fatal night; but it lives like a hissing fiery serpent in my memory, and has doomed me to utter despair in this world, and I fear for the next!) my husband did not return at the usual hour. I watched long at my accustomed place, at the parlour window. His slippers and dressing-gown were warming at the grate, and everything was in readiness for him; but he did not come. Twilight deepened into darkness, and I began to grow uneasy. All my selfish feelings were roused, and I felt myself sorely grieved. An hour more, yet he came not. I paced up and down the floor in a fit of impatience. A ring at the door. I waited to hear his step upon the stairs; but it was a lighter step than his, accompanied by the rustling of silk. Nellie B——, an intimate friend, bounded in. She was dressed for the opera. She said their carriage waited at the door for myself and Ernest. I told her Ernest had not yet returned from his office, and I could not go. She looked disappointed. A sudden thought seized me. Would it not be capital revenge for his neglect of me to find the parlour deserted when he came? I went to the opera. We were scarcely seated in our box when a party entered the box opposite. The blood rushed back to my heart, and my pulse stood still as I recognized Ernest, my Ernest, my husband, and leaning upon his arm one of the most beautiful young creatures my eyes ever beheld. This was my first impression, for there quickly followed so deadly and jealous a hatred as made her look positively ugly. I quickly drew down my veil that my husband might not discover me, and from my concealment watched them with glaring eyes. I heard nothing, saw nothing else; and once when rallied by my companions, I replied I was not well, and begged to be left to myself.

'Then with the fierceness of a tiger fearful of losing his prey, I turned my eyes towards my husband and his "guilty paramour." She seemed to be enjoying the performance intensely, but he seemed to see nothing but her. His head was bowed towards her, and she would occasionally lift her eyes to his face. Then I saw him smile (just as he had smiled upon me a thousand times), while he bent still lower upon her with renewed devotion.

Each movement was like a red-hot dagger piercing my heart. I know not what demon possessed me; I think I must have been mad when I vowed a terrible revenge. Twere better, I reasoned, that he should die while yet there existed in his heart a spark of love for me, than to see him little by little drawn away by the syren, till perhaps I should be utterly deserted, and left with all my blind love eating away my heart-strings like a consuming fire.

'At my request we left the opera at an early hour, and with a terrible purpose I entered my home. But what was that home now to me? The love that had brightened it was no longer mine. Some demon furnished me with a resolution to execute my desperate purpose.

'It had been our custom sometimes to drink a glass of sweet wine of an evening when we were alone. I drew the table to the fire, placed the decanter and glasses. Then with trembling hands I brought a deadly opiate, the nature of which I well knew. The first effect it produced was a deep sleep, which in a few hours terminated in the still slumber of death. I filled the glasses, and into one I dropped the drug. All was done with rapidity, lest my resolution should fail me.

'When all was ready I paced up and down the room, nursing the fires which raged within my bosom, by recounting to myself the wrong I had suffered. I pictured to myself my idolized husband lying still and cold before me, and I fell into a passionate fit of weeping. Then I drew another picture. I saw him drawn from me, giving his love to another. I thought of all the agony I had suffered that night, and imagined how much deeper would be my wrong if I spared him. At that moment I heard his night key in the latch, and he soon entered the room. I stood in the recess of the window, where he did not at once observe me. The wine first attracted his attention, the fatal glass. I saw him lift it to his lips, drain its contents, and I fell fainting to the floor.

'I knew no more for several hours. When I rallied I was lying upon the sofa; the lamp was burning dimly—an easy chair was wheeled to my side, and in it I saw the form of my husband. I sprang quickly up. The drug was doing its work. He was in a heavy slumber, and already his breath came thicker and shorter, and his pulse beat but faintly.

'My anger had passed away, and all that wild, worshipping love which I had cherished towards my husband came rushing back upon my heart. I chafed his hand, kissed his lips, and strove to rouse him, but all in vain. Again I paced up and down the floor, but oh! what different emotions possessed me now.

'A little folded paper, which I had not before noticed, and lying upon the table, caught my eye. Scarcely knowing or caring what I did, I took it up and opened it. I saw it was in the handwriting of my husband, and I eagerly read its contents. Great God of Heaven! What had I done? It was a note which Ernest had sent me, and which did not arrive till after I had gone out. It ran as follows:—

"Excuse me, Aggy dear, from coming home to tea. My sister, of whom I spoke to you this morning, has come home and has sent for me to come to her. If she is not too weary, I will take you both to the opera this evening, and will call for you at eight. Your loving HUSBAND."

"Now, for the first time, I remembered that he had told me in the morning that an only sister, who had been absent several years, was expected home that day. His parents resided in another part of the city. "He would call for me at eight." I had gone out earlier, and probably by some carelessness of the carrier, the note had not arrived before that time. I afterwards learned that he did call for me, and being told that I had gone to the opera with some friends, and probably had not received his note, he proceeded to that place with his sister, hoping to find me there.

'A wild hope that he might yet be roused seized me, and I sprang to his side. But alas! too late! He had ceased to breathe.

'Oh! heavens of heavens! what evil had my blind, passionate temper wrought me and mine. Again I became insensible.

'I opened my eyes. Loving, tear-stained faces bent over me. A soft hand was gently stroking my temples, and I gazed into the face of that gentle sister, whom I had never seen save upon that fatal night. She kissed me and whispered,

'"Dear Aggy, you are the greatest sufferer of us all."

'I was told that I was found in the morning by the servant, lying upon the floor insensible, and my husband reclining in his chair, dead!

'It seemed that suspicion had not rested upon myself. The coroner was called, and the verdict was, "Died by the visitation of God."

'Heaven only knows how I loathed and hated myself. I longed to confess the truth, but for the sake of others forbore to reveal what would have brought upon the family deep disgrace and additional grief. A long illness followed, and my reason reeled. I was carried back to my parents. I could not remain in the house which had been the scene of my sin and my punishment.

'Years passed. I grew no better, but was still trembling upon the verge of insanity, yet retaining sufficient reason to distinctly remember my sorrow, and to understand what was passing around me. What was perhaps strange, I was conscious of my mental condition.

'Years passed, and my parents both died. I was placed in the care of an uncle, who was my only natural guardian. From him I had inherited the selfish passion which had been my ruin.

'For a time I lived in his house, but he found me too great a trouble, and under pretence of solicitude for my recovery he placed me in the insane asylum. I knew that it was only to get me out of his way that he might have no hindrance in possessing himself of my large fortune. But I did not object. I felt I deserved all.

'Twelve years have I spent in this retreat. Every one has been extremely kind to me. During that time I have never seen my uncle. It is almost over, I feel that I shall soon follow to that dark bourne where in my frenzy I sent my noble husband nearly twenty years ago. I have read my Bible, I have tried to pray.'

A few months since I visited —— Cemetery. I found their graves. A costly monument marks the spot. The uncle is living in possession of his niece's wealth, and is seemingly prosperous. I have never made known to any one the existence of the paper in my possession. I have learned that the family of Ernest are all dead.

The dear friend who shared with me the knowledge of Aggy's confession also lies "beneath the sod of the valley."

Hoping that it may serve as a warning to some who may read it, I give this history to the world.

A citizen of Dublin, fearful of premature interment, left £50 to pay a surgeon for cutting the head from his body, prior to its burial.

The cotton famine increases in France. Nearly 6,000,000 spindles were in use, in that country, before the supply of cotton failed. Now, several hundred thousand operatives are destitute of employment.

Garibaldi is recovering, and expresses the design of returning to his "blessed solitude" at Caprera. His eldest son is said to have been mortally wounded in a duel with Col. Pallavicini, who captured the father.

THE MADOC MERCURY AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

No. 9. MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 2[illegible], 1863.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

THE SOUTHWEST.

The Confederate Generals Cheatham and McCoun are said to be at Shelbyville with their divisions, and expecting to be reinforced by Longstreet and his corps from the Richmond army, numbering 30,000 men. It would appear that another desperate effort to defeat the Northern army under Rosecrans is to be made, even at the risk of weakening the army under Lee, which disputes Burnside's way to Richmond.

It is intimated from Memphis that the Mississippi expedition, under McClernand and Porter, has gone to Little Rock, Ark., and that the capture of that place has probably already been effected.

It is said that the Confederates have completed a formidable ram at Little Rock, which may take advantage of the present high water in the river to make a dash upon the Union vessels.

A correspondent of the Chicago Tribune writes from Cairo that Gen. Sherman is charged with having detained the steamers coming up from Vicksburg, in order to conceal his misfortune; to have opened and read letters of correspondents there, and to have suppressed some of them. He also threatened to put correspondents in front and make them carry powder.

Morgan's success in his recent raid upon the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, is attributed to the utter inefficiency of the stockades for the purpose for which they were constructed. They are said to be little better than slaughter pens.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Troops are now pouring into Gen. Foster's Department at a very rapid rate, and important movements are pending.

A letter to the Philadelphia Press states that the rebels suffered greatly in consequence of the destruction of the bridges about Goldsboro by Gen. Foster, and that the repairs were effected by a large force of negroes working under the protection of Gen. Evans. Gen. French's division, formerly at Petersburg, has moved to Raleigh. A portion of Lee's army has been withdrawn from the Rappahannock to Richmond, and is said to be ready to march to different points in North Carolina for its defence. Gen. Foster has been very heavily reinforced lately, and is moving to the interior again. He is determined to keep the railroad communication between Richmond and the Gulf States severed. The large fleet now rendezvousing at Fortress Monroe, it is generally supposed, is designed to co-operate with an expedition for the capture of Wilmington, the terminus of three important railroads.

NEW ORLEANS.

A correspondent writing from New Orleans states that a special order had just been issued, directing three of the gunboats to proceed up the river as far as Baton Rouge, in anticipation of a forward movement at an early day. Several regiments, which were to encamp at Carrollton, had also been ordered to the same point. Maj.-Gen. Augur will command the grand division in the advance upon Port Hudson.

The troops in the Department of the Gulf are to constitute the Nineteenth army corps, of which Maj.-Gen. Banks is to be the commander.

CAPTURE OF CONFEDERATE DESPATCHES.

A despatch from Washington to the N. Y. Evening Post states that the papers recently captured by the blockading fleet comprise some very important despatches from Jeff. Davis and his Secretary of State to Mason, Slidell and others in Europe. They give many important facts and details in regard to the condition of the rebels. They also furnish the strongest statements of the desperate straits to which the rebel leaders are reduced, and show that unless they can quickly get relief, either by European interference or by dividing the free States, and thus paralyzing the efforts of the Government, they must give up their bad cause as lost. These despatches were put up in a tin box, loaded with lead at one end, so as to sink quickly in an emergency. The Government is strongly urged to make public these captured despatches, and will do so as soon as certain special information contained in them is made use of.

THE DEVASTATION OF WAR—SHERMAN'S EXPEDITION.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican, who accompanied Gen. Sherman's expedition on its way down the Mississippi, to the attack of Vicksburg, thus describes the conduct of the soldiers composing it. Is it any wonder that men who could thus treat defenceless enemies, should be driven back in disgrace when confronted by foes with arms in their hands?

The progress of this expedition down the Mississippi will be memorable in history. It will be remembered by the dwellers along the banks of the Mississippi to their latest days, and will for ever embitter them against everything Northern. Were peace declared to-day, and the war to cease, I would hesitate to risk myself alone by night in any town by which we have passed, for twenty years to come, should it be known that I was a Northern man. An army without discipline! Imagine, if you can, the excesses it will commit.

I doubt whether the most vivid imagination can picture the horrors that lurk in the track of this movement. Never in the history of civilized warfare have such outrages been committed as have been committed, apparently without restraint, by the army of Gen. Sherman. Desolation and ruin mark the course of our advance. Never again can we of the North complain of the outrages of the South. We have made a war of extermination and ruin against peaceful citizens and unoffending communities that will stamp disgrace upon our escutcheon in the eyes of all the civilized nations of the earth.

The armada, of necessity, halts at night. The boats transports tie up to the banks, and the soldiers are permitted to go ashore and wander about at pleasure. At every landing the marks of their presence have been left. Our first landing was at Friar's Point, a quiet place, from which, it does not appear, that any hostile demonstration has ever been made. I do not suppose that a majority, or any considerable number of the citizens, are Union people; nor do I know, to the contrary. It is a Southern town, and *prima facie* evidence would convict the people of being secessionists. But so long as they remain quiet and peaceable I do not see why they should be disturbed. But, where soldiers are permitted to take the law into their own hands, there is but little reason or justice displayed in its execution. At this place, during the night we lay off the town, the torch was freely and indiscriminately applied, and about half the town was laid in ashes. The ruins embraced every business house in the place, beside a number of dwellings. Of course, no one committed these outrages, and no one has been brought to account for them.

Monday night we tied up a few miles below the mouth of the White river, and fortunately in a somewhat uninhabited region. There was but a single plantation within reach; but this was desolated during the night, and every building on the premises burned up.

Tuesday night brought us to Gaines's Landing—a thriving, pretty place on the Arkansas shore, and surrounded with extensive plantations on both sides of the river. Here the excesses of our troops exceeded all belief. Scarcely had the boats touched the bank when a large warehouse was set on fire, and quickly consumed. The flames communicated to another two dwellings adjoining, which were consequently laid in ashes. During the evening another portion of the town, known as Gaston's Landing, was visited. Mr. Gaston, from whom this locality takes its name, has the reputation of being an outspoken, fearless, Union man. But this did not save him. His dwellings and outbuildings were all fired and destroyed. A little below was a splendid plantation, one of the finest on the river. This was completely destroyed, not a building being left upon it. A number of dwellings in the town were destroyed, including one occupied by three unprotected females. These were obliged to fly for their lives at midnight, leaving all their effects to the devouring element. Just above the town another plantation, with a splendid mansion, was wholly destroyed. On the opposite bank there was a large quantity of wood piled, estimated at twelve or fifteen hundred cords. This, too, was set on fire and burned up, notwithstanding that wood is a great necessity on the river, but very little can be had, as it has been hauled out since the war broke out. The fleet of transports will require all the wood they can find to get up the river again, and because of this destruction they will be compelled to cut their wood as they may need it.

Is not the record a sickening one? Is it not a bright commentary on the teachings of those journalists at the North who insist on making this a war of devastation and extermination? I learn that General Sherman is highly incensed at these outrages, and expressed a determination to stop them at all hazards. But I have seen buildings destroyed since these reported expressions of his, and argue therefrom that he has no control over his army.

After reading the above, can any one dispute the justice of the following remarks of Gov. Letcher, in his Message to the Virginia Legislature?

The vandalism of the Northern armies is without parallel in the history of warfare. No regard has been paid to the rights of persons or property. They have violated the one and trampled upon the other. They have arrested and imprisoned private citizens, and subjected them to every indignity and outrage; they have destroyed property that could be of no value to them, and that in all previous wars had been respected. Wardrobes have been broken open, and the wearing apparel of the ladies and their children either destroyed, or appropriated by officers high in rank, and sent to their homes in the North. Pianos and valuable furniture of all kinds have been boxed up and removed in many instances, and in others broken up, and the pieces scattered about the premises. The most wanton destruction has marked the progress of the Northern army; and the cities and towns they have occupied exhibit the "abomination of desolation." Even the lodges of the venerated order of Masons were broken open and robbed of their emblems, jewels and regalia; the churches were shamefully desecrated; the Bibles torn to pieces, and scattered through the streets. Our cities, towns and counties indicate that they have been visited by the presence of a heaven-defying, and a hell-deserving rabble.

President Davis, in a speech lately made by him at Richmond, in reply to a complimentary serenade on his return from the Southwest, said:—

You have shown yourselves in no respect degenerate sons of your fathers. You have fought mighty battles, and your deeds of valour will live among the richest spoils of Time's ample page. It is true, you have a cause which binds you together more firmly than your fathers. They fought to be free from the usurpations of the British Crown, *but they fought against a manly foe. You fight against the offscourings of the earth.*

There is great dissatisfaction in the army of the Potomac, amounting almost to demoralization, and the chief cause of it is the fact that the men have not had their pay for months. It is surprising that the government can have permitted the evil to go uncorrected so long, while such vast interests are at stake.

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.
A Weekly Newspaper of Local and General Information.
Will be Published every Saturday Morning, at Two Cents a Copy, or One Dollar a Year, strictly in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE INSERTED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS FOR CASH:—

Six lines, first insertion	0 50
Each subsequent insertion	0 12½
Six to ten lines, first insertion	0 75
Each subsequent insertion	0 18
Above ten lines (per line) first insertion	0 07
Each subsequent insertion, per line	0 02

All Communications for the MERCURY to be addressed, (post-paid) to A. SMALLFIELD, Madoc Post Office.

For sale at WILSON'S MUSICAL HALL, Madoc, where Subscribers in and near the village may obtain their copies, and orders for the paper and advertisements will duly be received.

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

THE SHERIFFALTY OF HASTINGS.—It is rumoured that the Court of Error and Appeal, in the case of *Queen v. Moodie*, have upheld the decision of the Court below, and consequently pronounced judgment against the defendant, Sheriff Moodie. It is also reported that, acting under the advice of his counsel, Mr. Moodie has sent in his resignation to the Government, so as to save himself from the consequences of dismissal, which would forever disqualify him from holding office under the Crown. It is also rumoured in this connection, that the member for South Hastings, who forwarded this resignation to Quebec, at the same time forwarded a recommendation that George Taylor, Esq., be appointed to the vacant office,—which recommendation it is stated has been complied with, and that the appointment will appear in the next *Gazette*.—*Chronicle*.

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24.

MADOC TOWNSHIP COUNCIL.—On Monday the 19th inst., the newly elected Council met for organisation. Present, Messrs. A. F. Wood, W. H. Tumblety, Peter Vancleek, John N. Meare, and John Dale.

The Clerk having sworn in the Members as to their qualifications to sit—

It was moved by Mr. Vancleek, seconded by Mr. Dale, that A. F. Wood be Reeve for the present year.—Carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Wood, seconded by Mr. Vancleek, that Wm. H. Tumblety be Deputy Reeve for the present year.—Carried unanimously.

The Reeve then appointed Mr. Charles Gream to be one of the Auditors for the year.

The Council next elected Mr. John H. Dunn as the other Auditor.

The Reeve brought up the matter as to tendering for the various offices for the year; and after the Members had expressed their opinions—

It was moved by Mr. Tumblety and seconded by Mr. Dale, that the appointments of Assessors and Collector for the year shall be made by the Council, instead of receiving tenders as heretofore.—Carried unanimously.

The Council, after appointing their days of meeting and disposing of some other business, adjourned till the first Wednesday in February.

THE MADOC POST OFFICE.—A stranger on first visiting Madoc, would have little idea from its appearance, and that of the country on either side of the road from Belleville, and long he had desired to be engaged in the work; surrounding neighbourhood generally, of the business centre it really is. This arises from the rolling nature of the ground, preventing an extended view in any one direction; consequently the houses appear to be fewer, and the population more sparse than they in fact are. But the actual importance of Madoc can be better appreciated by the sight presented at the Post Office, especially after the arrival of the European mails, or of the county and more distant weekly papers. The boxes from *A* to *Z* are mostly crowded to their full capacity, proving that although so close to the backwoods the people are not without a taste for news and literature. When the letters are ready to be stamped with the post mark of the date of arrival, there are enough of them to keep the stamper, with all his dexterity, employed for a sufficient time to almost take his breath away, and keep him warm even upon a tolerably cold winter's day. By and bye, it will be found that the Village of Hastings is quite as much the proper place for the transaction of other public business, as it is for post office purposes.

THE MADOC VOLUNTEERS.—We understand that Captain Findlay has been notified by the Deputy Adjutant-General that the authorities at Montreal have been instructed to forward to him 55 long Enfield rifles, and 55 great-coats and other accoutrements, for the use of the men belonging to the Madoc Infantry Company of Volunteers under his command.

The want of a suitable Armoury will be very much felt, for as yet Madoc has no fire-proof buildings for the reception of any government arms, and a heavy responsibility will thus be entailed on Captain Findlay, in securing and looking after so large a number of rifles and appendages. We would recommend him not to allow any of the cases to be unpacked till the authorities procure a proper storehouse. We do not know whether the Township Council has any right to furnish accommodation, but it is very desirable that either they or the Government should at once see to this very important matter. Captain Findlay has been unremitting in his endeavours to raise the Company, and it would be doing him great injustice were his efforts not seconded by the other leading men in the village. The formation of such companies, their proper equipment, with suitable rooms for the safekeeping of their arms and for the purposes of drill, at as many points as possible, are the surest guarantees for the protection of Canada from the infliction of such ravages as are described on our first page.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSION.

QUEENSBOROUGH.—On Sunday last, the Rev. Mr. Whitmarsh, with a large party of friends, left the village in the afternoon for Queensborough. Mr. Whitmarsh preached in the New Hall to a crowded congregation. The Hall being small, it was filled to overflowing, so that many failed to obtain seats or gain admission. The people felt deeply interested, and at the conclusion of the service they gave Mr. Whitmarsh a warm reception.

BEST'S SETTLEMENT.—The school-house at Best's settlement was crowded on Wednesday evening by an attentive congregation, long before the appointed time for holding the service, and the want of ventilation was very apparent. Before commencing his sermon, the Rev. Mr. Whitmarsh made a few remarks on the pleasure he felt at seeing so many present, interested in the objects of the mission, and stated that although many present might have formerly enjoyed privileges they are now deprived of, they had much to be thankful for, and that even without a opportunity of assembling in a church building, could always keep up the habit and practice of ship. He then expounded his text—"Continuing stant in prayer"—in a plain, practical manner, much earnestness, and was listened to with the de est attention throughout.—On this occasion, two fants were baptised.

On Friday next, the 30th instant, services, as we understand five or six other clergymen will be p sent, will be held at Marmora in the morning, and Madoc in the evening, in aid of the mission.

MADOC AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE above Society held its annual meeting for election of office-bearers in the North Americ Hotel (Hudgins') on Saturday last, James O'Ha Esq., in the chair.

The Chairman called upon Mr. Findlay, the Sec tary, to read the Report, which is rather lengthy this week's issue, but will appear in our next.

The Report was then approved and adopted, a the following officers duly elected for the year :—

JAMES O'HARA, Esq., *President*.

JOHN TAYLOR, Esq., *Vice-President*.

Directors.

GEORGE MCGAUGHEY, WM. VANKLEEK, WM. BLAIR, LYMAN MOON, JOHN R. ETCHESON, HENRY ROBINSON, ALEX. NICOLSON, GEO. W. ROSE, and MARK RUNNINGS, Esqs.

EDWARD MOUNCEY, Esq., *Treasurer*.

W. FINDLAY, Esq., *Secretary*.

E. D. O'FLYNN and JAMES SPEIRS, Esqs., *Auditors*.

NORTH HASTINGS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the North Hastings Agricultural Society took place on Wednesday, the 21st inst., at the Town-Hall of Huntingdon. We were much gratified to see a large attendance of members from all parts of the Riding, and also to find that great interest was evinced by all present in the proceedings. The large Hall was well filled.

The meeting was called to order at one o'clock by the late President, Mr. M. Kerr.

The Secretary read the report for 1862, which after some discussion, was received and adopted.

The Chairman then stated that the next business in order was the election of officers for the ensuing year, and he was prepared to receive nominations for President.

The various officers were then proposed, and votes taken on each in rotation, resulting in the following selection :—

President—JAMES ARCHIBALD, Esq.

1st *Vice-President*—MATATHIAH KERR, Esq.

2nd *Vice-President*—JAMES O'HARA, Esq.

Directors—Messrs. WHITE, A. F. WOOD, M. HAYES, COULTER, SYMES, ETCHESON, and FRASER.

Treasurer—— OSTROM, Esq.

Secretary—JAMES RYAN, Esq.

After the election of officers, Mr. Ostrom brought up a circular letter relative to the election of members to the Board of Agriculture. He explained that under the existing law it would be useless for this Society to endeavour to have a local representative at the Board, as their vote would undoubtedly be quashed by those of other societies. A bill has been prepared to remedy this state of things, and he hoped that next year they would be able to have a repre-

native of their own selection. For the present they had no choice but to submit to the dictation of the circular.

Mr. Wood regretted that proper steps had not been taken to procure a concert of action in this matter between the Societies of North and South Hastings and the neighbouring counties, so as to have some local man selected to sit at the Board of Education, but he saw it was now too late, and they must therefore submit.

Mr. Mann explained that the object of the circular was evidently to secure at least one representative from the Eastern part of Upper Canada, and on that account he thought they could not do better than nominate Dr. Richmond, the gentleman named in the circular, in place of Hon. Adam Ferguson, deceased. He then moved that Dr. Richmond and the three retiring members of the Board of Agriculture receive the vote of this Society, which was carried without opposition.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Hayes addressed the meeting on the nature, extent, and character of the settlements in the back townships. He read the statistics of the crops on the free grants for the last two years, and dwelt at some length upon the importance of developing the back country—comparing the present condition and nature of lands in the front townships of York, Ontario and Peel with that of twenty years ago, and showing that the great improvement was chiefly attributable to the rapid development of the land lying to the north of them. He was well acquainted with the country composing the two ridings of Simcoe and the lands lying to the east of Lake Simcoe. He was also thoroughly familiar with the country forming the northern townships of Hastings, and he had no hesitation in saying that the latter contains as large a proportion of good land and is otherwise as well adapted for settlement as the former. It only wanted a little energy and hearty co-operation by the residents of the front of the county to produce the same beneficial results here that have followed in the West from the settlement of the back townships by a large wealth-producing population. The result in a few years would be that in place of being, as they now are, comparatively back townships, they would be in effect front townships, and their farms, in place of being worth from £8 to £6 an acre, would be worth £15 to £25 an acre, as they are in those western counties, with no better land. He hoped that his connection with the Society would be useful to his settlers in the bush, by helping them to get good seed, at reasonable rates, and generally, by promoting intercourse, to forward the objects of the Society.

Mr. Hayes' remarks were well received, and seemed to create considerable interest, most of the audience being surprised at the great extent of settlement which has taken place in the northern townships.

A vote of thanks was then unanimously tendered to the late President.

It was observed that the Treasurer's account shows a large balance of some $250 on hand. This fact does not argue much for the activity of the management during the past year, but it is gratifying as a proof of power to do good in the future. The funds of the Society should be, and we trust they will be, used to their utmost capacity in the purchase of good seeds, and other objects of the Society.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

Mr. Editor,—I am much obliged to you for the favourable notice you have been pleased to take of my STRIKING AND GAY LOOKING STAGE SIGNS. Permit me through your columns to inform my friends and the travelling public that I am not only prepared to take them through to Beaver Creek on the mail days, but am ready on any other day in the week to serve my friends and customers, not only to Beaver Creek but to all points of the County.

If I am not able from press of business to take passengers myself, they may depend on having a steady and obliging driver sent with them.

I remain, Your obedient Servant,
LYMAN MOON.

Madoc, 13th Dec., 1862.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS THOMAS THOMSON AND OTHERS have by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that the said Thomas Thomson be granted the allowance of road across the west end of Lot No. 15, in the 5th Concession, Madoc, in lieu of the road now travelled across said lot,—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties having objections thereto will be heard by the said Council at their next regular meeting, of which due intimation will be given.

By Order,
W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS WILLIAM MURBY has by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that he be granted the Hastings Road Allowance in lieu of the present road now travelled, through Lot No. 28, in the 5th Concession, Madoc,—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties objecting to the prayer of said petition will have to appear before said Council at their next regular meeting, when they will be heard, and of which due intimation will be given.

By Order,
W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

D. C. BROWN,

BLACKSMITH, HORSESHOER, &c.

JOBBING DONE AT ALL TIMES,

Both in the Village, and near Rupert's School-House.

DR. THWAITES,

Madoc.

MR. GREAM,

(Solicitor and Attorney of the Chancery and Law Courts of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.,

West Half of Lot 20 in the 7th Concession of Madoc.

MR. GREAM will attend in Madoc Village every Saturday.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER,

MADOC.

W. FINDLAY,

Town Clerk, Conveyancer, Notary Public, &c.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,

MADOC.

MEDICAL HALL.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

TO RENT, OR EXCHANGE

FOR A SUITABLE HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE

THE LARGE FRAME BUILDING,

On the North-East Corner of Lot No. 23, in the Fifth Concession of Madoc,

IMMEDIATELY ADJOINING KELLAR'S BRIDGE,

Well Adapted either for a Store or Dwelling House.

For Particulars apply either on the spot to A. Smallfield, or if by letter, postpaid, at the Madoc Post Office.

G. D. RAWE,

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER,

DIVISION STREET, MADOC.

MADOC HOUSE.

NEW GOODS.

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, HARDWARE, GROCERIES, COAL OIL LAMPS, BOOTS & SHOES, &c., &c., &c.

Cash paid for Grain and Potash.

Madoc, Nov., 1862.

THE RUSSELL HOUSE, MADOC,

By A. Snider,

Corner of Madawaska and Donald Streets.

A FIRST CLASS HOUSE, in the business part of the town. A Good Yard and Stabling.

DEANS & GRAY,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

Madoc.

JAMES DEANS. ROBERT T. GRAY.

To Let, for a Term of Three or Five Years,

THE WELL-KNOWN TAVERN STAND of JAMES JOHNSTON, on Lot No. 12, in the Fifth Concession of Madoc, with Five Acres of Land attached. For terms, which will be reasonable, apply on the premises.

JOHN DALE,

DEALER IN STOVES, TINWARE, SHEET IRON, &c.—A Large Assortment of COOKING and BOX STOVES always on hand.

ANDREW WRIGHT,

BAKER AND CONFECTIONER, East Side, Durham street, Madoc.—A Large Assortment of Liquors, Groceries, and Provisions always on hand.

NEW STORE AT MADOC.

A. B. ROSS & BROTHER,

DEALERS IN STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES, LEATHER, &c.

The Highest Price in Cash paid for Potash.

A. B. ROSS. S. D. ROSS.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

By P. WOOD, Madoc.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

THE INTELLIGENCER,

A WEEKLY POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER, published in Belleville by MACKENZIE BOWELL, at $2 a year. It is the oldest paper published in the County of Hastings, and one of the oldest in the Province, being in its 25th year.

Published every Friday Morning, corner of Front and Bridge Streets, Belleville, C. W. Terms:—Two Dollars per annum, if called for at the office, or sent by mail; and Two Dollars and a half per annum, when delivered by the carrier, payable in all cases in advance. When not paid till after the close of the year, Fifty Cents will be added to each year's subscription.

No Paper discontinued until all arrears are paid up, except at the option of the Publisher.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—The *Leader* says that it is now definitely settled that the Legislature will be called together for the transaction of business, on the 12th of February. An earlier day would have been appointed, but for the illness of the Hon. Mr. Howland, the Minister of Finance.

THE annual meeting of School Section No. 1 was held at the school-room in the village on Wednesday, the 14th inst., to elect a new Trustee, in place of Mr. E. Mounsey, who retires. Several gentlemen were spoken of, but the meeting, by a large majority, elected Mr. Ed. Franklin as Mr. Mounsey's successor. The meeting also elected Mr. Seymour as Auditor, and voted in favour of a free school, as last year.

REEVES AND DEPUTY REEVES.—*Hungerford*—A. L. Bogart, Reeve; John Newton, Deputy Reeve.

Tudor.—James Richardson, Reeve.

Thurlow.—Alex'r Wilson, Reeve; Philip Clapp, Deputy Reeve.

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

SATURDAY, Jan. 24th, 1863.

ASHES	$5 75 ₱ cwt.
BARLEY	
OATS	35 to 40 cents.
WHEAT	80 to 90 cents.
PEAS	50 to 60 cents.
HIDES	04 to 06 lbs.
PORK	03½ to 04 ₱ lbs.
BUTTER	12½ cents ₱ lb.
HAY	$12 ₱ ton.

BANNOCKBURN PRICES CURRENT.

WHEAT	80 @ 80
OATS	35 @ 37½
PEAS	45 @ 50
BUCKWHEAT	20 @ 25
ASHES, ₱ 112 lb.	
BUTTER.	
HIDES, 06 @ 06 lbs.	
HAY, $12.	
STRAW, $1 50 @ $2 00 per load.	
POTATOES, 25c @ 30c.	

Jan. 24th, 1863.

BELLEVILLE MARKETS.

Spring Wheat, 3s 9d to 4s 0d. Rye, 2s 0d. Barley, 2s 6d to 3s 0d. Oats, 1s 0d. Peas, 3s 9d. Flour (Retail) ₱ bbl., 23s 0d. Flour, ₱ 196 lbs., 11s 3d @12 6d. Potash, ₱ cwt., 30s 0d. Hay, ₱ ton, 60s to 80s. Potatoes, ₱ bushel, 1s 3d to 2s 0d. Beef, ₱ cwt., 32s 6d @17s 6d. Pork, ₱ cwt., 25s 0d @30s 0d. Butter, ₱ lb 0s 7½d @0s 9d. Eggs, ₱ doz., 0s 7½d @0s 9d.

BIRTH.

FINDLAY.—At Madoc, on Friday, the 16th inst., the wife of Captain Findlay, of the Madoc Infantry Company of Volunteers, of a son.

BROCKLEHURST.

We are together in the parlour—my wife and I. It was not much past nine, but people kept early hours in those days, and supper had long been over; the children were in bed, and the house was quiet. I was leaning back in my easy chair, wearied with my long day's work, and half asleep, when I was roused by my wife's voice saying, as she laid down her sewing:

"Have you thought or done anything yet, Alfred, about our going to the country?" Now, to tell the truth, I had thought a great deal, and had done—nothing. I knew Dr. Elwyn had said that little Philip would never grow up a healthy boy in our close London house, and I was as anxious as any father need be about my child, but I knew, too, by said experience, how little a poor drawing-master with seven children had to spare for country trips. All this I said now to the wife, who always bore her full share of my heavy cares; but in her the mother's love conquered all else, and as I looked into her eyes, I saw, though she spoke little, that she would never rest until our boy was breathing the fresh country air he needed.

But the weeks passed away, and her worn face, and the few words she dropped from time to time, told me how constantly and vainly she watched for any chance of this. They had grown to months, when one evening she met me at the door radiant with gladness, and drawing me into the parlour, put into my hand a letter, exclaiming: "Only read that, Alf, and tell me if it will do." It ran thus: "Not three miles from here is a large house, Brocklehurst Grange, which having been empty many years, is now to be let at a very low rent. I could hardly advise Mr. Sainsbury to take it, should he think of it, for it looks so dreary and comfortless, that you would never like to live there. Still, in case my description does not alarm you, and you wish to hear more, I send the address of the agent in whose hands it is." My wife hardly waited for me to read to the end. "My aunt does not know," she said anxiously. "Think! it is large and cheap, and it must be near a coach-road, and near London, since it is close to Leckford, and that is such a healthy place. O Alfred, dear, we don't care for fine houses, and we could make it cheerful soon, I know, if only you think it will do." That was too much to say; but in pity for her imploring face, I promised at least to see the agent. I called at the office the next day, and found him at his desk, ready to hear of a possible tenant. The house, he said, had belonged to a Mr. Abbott, who had lived and died abroad. The nephew, who had just inherited the property, preferred receiving a rent, however small, to spending money on the place. The agent could not help discoursing a little on the short-sighted economy of this proceeding, since the building was in fair repair, and only needed the outlay of a few hundreds to make it comfortable; but it was, he added, no affair of his, and he had only to obey orders. In conclusion, he pressed me to inspect it for myself. I felt inclined to do so, but as I could not well spare a whole day at present, the agent himself resolved it by proposing that I should go down by an afternoon coach, the time of which he mentioned, and return the following morning. There were, he said, living in charge of the house, two old servants of Mr. Abbott, and their son, who had been there for many years. "I can of promise you a warm reception," he added smiling: "at least if they treat you as they did me. They certainly fear to be turned out of their situation, and regarded me as gloomily, that my journey was for the briefest. Still, if you don't mind, your looks, they can, I know, provide you with a bed, and, as the village is only two miles off, with supper also."

It seemed my wisest plan, since I could thus judge of the daily journey, might have to make, and see the house under its morning and evening aspect, so, mindful of my wife's anxiety, I determined to lose no time, and obtained from the agent a letter to the old man in charge. With this letter I made my way to the coach office the following afternoon; but when there found, much to my vexation, that the agent had mistaken the time of the coach's starting, and that we should not be off for two hours. There was nothing for it but to wait patiently; but through this delay it was nearly six o'clock instead of four when I was set down at the village inn two miles from Brocklehurst. I was just about to inquire my way of some of the boys lounging about the inn door, when it occurred to me that it might be wiser to hire one of them as a guide. The short February afternoon was closing in, and I might find my road along and so lose time, and besides, from these country lads I might learn something of the house and neighbourhood; so I chose out a bright-faced active youth, who readily closed with my offer, and started off with me at once along the village street, and down a lane, and then over a stile into the fields, his tongue going incessantly all the while. He could tell little, as it seemed, about the Grange, only that within his memory, no one had lived there but the Pearces, "a quiet society set," he said. The old man got work sometimes with the farmers near, but the old people rarely left the house, and even when they went abroad, exchanged few words with any they might meet. But if his information on this one point was small, on all others it was most abundant; the names and histories of the neighbouring squires, and who preserved and who did not, the land owned by each farmer, and the character he bore among his men (this and much more, he told me as we trudged onwards.

"There," he said, at length, coming to a halt on a piece of old pasture land, and stood on the edge of a dreary broken bit of common covered with gorse and heath—"do you see the red tiles, house yonder by the gravel-pit?" I looked the way his finger pointed, and through the glittering twigs of a straggling hedge, saw a long low building.

"I'll tell you what, sir," he said in a low tone, and coming closer to my side, "there's not a lad in all the village would venture round there after nightfall, for there was murder done at that house not two years ago."

"Murder!" I exclaimed.

"Yes, and the cruellest murder it was, too. An old gentleman used to live there—not so very old either, not much past sixty. I've heard say; but however that might be, he lived there quite alone, except for one young servant-woman, who kept his house. A friend of mine spoke to Ann Forrest was, and many's the kind word she'd said to me when she's been to mother's shop. She always seemed to take great care of her old master, and no wonder, for he was the best old man that ever lived, and a good master to her; but he had money laid by, and that must have tempted her, for one morning some labourers going past found the front door open, the house deserted, and the poor old gentleman lying covered with blood and quite dead, at the bottom of the garden. They say he used to go down there to smoke his pipe at night, and she chose that time, when she knew he could lay hold of nothing to defend himself with. An old iron box, in which the old man kept his money, and which only she knew where to find, was lying turned bottom up-permost and empty, in the passage, and the poor clothes had many of them scattered about the floor of her room, and in one of her drawers they found a long knife that she had hidden there. But they never found her; and from that day to this no one has heard either." It was a horrible story to listen to, with the black darkness closing round us, and the lonely house close by. We hastened in silence across the common, down a dark steep road, and through some meadows, until we passed from the free air into the shadow of a wood, the boy said, in his former cheery tone, "There, sir, now you can see the old Warren through the trees." A dim mass outline—that was all I could make out, as my companion unfastened a gate, pointed the way up a neglected drive, and saying that he should run across the field, and so home by the highroad, bade me good-night. The old gate swung to with a dismal creak, and I was left to grope my way alone. On I went, brushing past shrubs, whose long boughs swept the ground, and stumbling over ruts and stones until I reached an open space that had once been gravel, but now was overgrown with moss and weeds, and crossing this, stood in front of the old house itself. The walls, as I could see, even by that dim light, were weather-stained and darkened to a dull brown; three sharp gables high above cut into the grey sky; and higher still there rose a sort of dome from the centre of the building. The rising moon cast a faint gleam on the latticed oriel windows, and the quaint stone carvings round the entrance door, and gave a doubly weird aspect to the solitary dwelling. The clang of the bell echoed through the stillness within. I waited, then rang again, and at length there was a sound of steps and voices, a turning of keys, and then a door. A key grated in the rusty lock, and the door was partly opened by an old man, whose short thick figure at once filled up the way, as though to prevent a hasty entrance. Behind him stood a woman, somewhat bent by age, and holding in her hand a lantern. Both stared at me in silent wonderment as addressing myself to the old man, I told my errand. It was well I was prepared for sullenness, for his furrowed brow darkened as still standing in the doorway, he pulled out the agent's letter.

"A strange thing to put in a letter, we might have had some notice I should think, we want no gentle-folks here." My temper rose at this insolence, but remembering his age and surly temper, I restrained myself, and said that I had meant to arrive sooner, but need give little trouble, and some bread and cheese and a bed for the night were all I should require. The man stood doubting, as though half inclined to shut the door in my face; then his mind changed, and, without a word, he took the lantern from his wife's hand, and, signing to me to follow, led the way across a bare and lofty hall, and along two stone passages of large extent, where a fire was blazing. Setting down the lantern on the table, he turned round and said: "You'll maybe see that this is the kitchen. If you're too proud to eat here, there are other rooms in plenty, but you'll have no fires or candles;" and without waiting for a reply, he walked away. I turned to the woman, who had followed us, and, now stood by the fire, and asked some question carelessly; but she answered me briefly, with a hurried glance at her husband, and, weary of attempting to conciliate, I said, abruptly, that as my time was short, I would see the house at once.

"There's very little you'll be able to see at this time of night," old Pearce said gruffly from the window where he stood.

"At least," I answered, "I could go through the rooms, and get some notion of their size," and I made a move.

For a moment, it seemed as though they meant to let me go alone, then Pearce stepped suddenly forward, and harshly calling to his wife to bring the keys, caught up the light. Preceded by my unwilling guides, I traversed long passages, our footsteps sounding hollow on the stone floors, mounted staircases, and crossed landings. We stopped from time to time while the woman unlocked the doors of empty and unfurnished rooms, where dust lay thick, and the feeble glimmer of the lantern only served to make the gloom and desolation more apparent. No word was spoken by either of the two save in answer to my questions, until we reached a large chamber, once a drawing room, as I could guess by the gilt mouldings and two tall mirrors let into the wall. As I entered and looked round the old man drew his wife outside the door, and when they had exchanged some whispered words, sent her down stairs, and, coming to my side, began to tell me how, thirty years before, in Mrs. Abbott's days, grand balls were often given in this very room, and how a portrait of her, dressed for one of them still hung in the lumber room below; and then he led me in to look at the pale haired face in gold and crimson turban, gazing fixedly upon us from the wall. As I turned from it, the woman again joined us, resumed her keys, and the man's sullen humour coming over him once more, we went on in the old silence until we reached the foot of a narrow winding staircase. My conductors had begun to mount it, when I touched a door upon my right, and said: "Surely we have not been in here?" The man, half way up, stopped, and, looked down at me. "No," he said, "it is only a lumber room; the key has been lost this long while: if you wish to go in, you must have a fresh key made before you come again;" and he went on. It was a large rambling house where you came suddenly upon cupboards and corners, and bits of winding stairs, or a step up here and down there, and passages with such queer turns and twists, that one wondered whither they would lead; still there was something quaint about it that took my fancy greatly. When at last we got back to the kitchen, a man sat by the fire unlacing his boots, and with his back towards the door. He turned as I entered, and displayed a muscular form and heavy face, like enough to old Pearce's to mark him as his son. He returned my greeting with a silent stare, resumed his seat, and pulling at his father's allusions muttered angrily, "And who on earth may you be?" I did not catch the answer, but the gruff assent that followed was sufficiently expressive.

(To be Continued.)

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

No. 10. MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st 1863.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

THE SOUTHWEST.

Driven off from Vicksburg—of which place Rear-Admiral Porter had promised to make a New Year's gift to the "nation"—the expedition was directed up the Arkansas River, in search of a "victory" over a formidable antagonist. The opportunity was found at a place called Arkansas Post—so little known that some accounts say it is 50, others 100 miles from the mouth of the river. With his gunboats, Porter mounted the eleven guns of the fort in three hours. Gen. McClernand, with the force under his command of the Army of the Mississippi—attacked on the land side, thus forcing a speedy surrender. Six regiments were captured in the earthworks, and two Texas regiments, marching to reinforce the place, and ignorant of its capture, were also "bagged." A large amount of ammunition and stores was taken. The loss on the occasion, in killed and wounded, was—U. S., 200 to 500, and 7,000 prisoners.

Gen. Longstreet is reported to have arrived at Tullahoma with his corps, lately at Fredericksburg, and superseded Bragg in command. The latter, it is said, has been ordered to defend the line of Duck River.

The rebel prisoners captured at Murfreesboro' amount to over 3,500, representing 19 batteries and 40 regiments. The rebels say they had 65,000 men in the battle.

Several steamers have been seized at Cincinnati by order of the U. S. Government, and despatched to Memphis, doubtless to furnish sufficient transports to take Gen. Grant's army to Vicksburg—which is to be attacked once more.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Important news is expected shortly from this point. Gen. Foster is supposed to have between 40,000 and 50,000 men under his command. Several iron-clads are not in conjunction with his army, for the capture of Wilmington, and his friends are sanguine that ere long the Capital (Raleigh) and the more important wealthy sections of the "Old North" State will be in possession of the U. S. Government. The regular mails from Newbern were to be interdicted for a time, until certain important movements can be carried out.

THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

is again on the move. It appears that as long ago as Jan. 1st, the whole of the pontoon train, which had been taken to Washington, had again been brought down the river, and anchored in the vicinity of Gen. Burnside's headquarters.

Gen. Burnside has issued the following general order from his headquarters, at Falmouth:—

"The Commanding General announces to the Army of the Potomac that the year about to meet the enemy once more. The late brilliant actions in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas have divided and weakened the enemy on the Rappahannock, and the auspicious moment seems to have arrived to strike a sure and mortal blow to the rebellion, and to gain a decisive victory that is due to the country. The gallant soldiers of so many brilliant battle fields will accomplish this achievement, and a fame the most glorious awaits them. The Commanding General asks for a firm and united action of all officers and men, and under the Providence of God the Army of the Potomac will have taken the great step toward restoring peace to the country, and the Government its rightful authority."

Exciting rumors were current towards the end of last week that Burnside had again crossed the Rappahannock with the Army of the Potomac, and a terrible battle was being fought. The report that Longstreet's corps had been detached from the Confederate army and sent to Tennessee was said to be untrue. That army was intact, and all engaged in opposition to Burnside. One wing of the army, probably Sumner's, had succeeded in flanking the Confederate position, and had advanced two miles. Gen. Hooker was mortally wounded.—Gen. Hooker's division at least it was understood in Washington, had certainly crossed the Rappahannock, but the rumours of a battle were pronounced untrue.

THE INTERCEPTED DESPATCHES.

Among the batch of intercepted rebel despatches captured off Charleston, is a letter from Secretary Benjamin, dated in September last, "exaggerating" according to the N. Y. papers, all the Southern victories, and summing up the U. S. losses in all the battles up to that time at 350,000 men. The most important part of the correspondence relates to a movement on the part of the French Consuls at Galveston and Richmond, supposed to have originated in Paris, to induce Texas to secede from the Southern Confederacy, and establish an independent government. The result of this discovery was an order to Gen. Magruder to send the Consul at Galveston to Mexico as soon as possible, and another to the Richmond Consul to leave forthwith. The order with regard to the latter was, however, soon rescinded. The N. Y. Times considers this "pretended intrigue" a bit of play between Secessionists, but up to Sunday Great Britain, as the only use the Confederate agent in Europe was required to make of the affected discovery, was to furnish the story to the "British Cabinet," as the exposure of these secret and unfriendly designs of France may induce the British Cabinet to check them by an immediate recognition of the independence of the Confederate States.

NEW ORLEANS.

Most of Gen. Banks' troops had arrived at New Orleans early in the month, and had been sent to Baton Rouge. The advance thence would not probably take place before the 20th inst., as the preparations necessary for the reduction of the formidable rebel intrenchments at Port Hudson could not possibly be completed before that time.

Admiral Farragut had sent the Brooklyn, the Scioto, and half a dozen others of his best vessels to Galveston, to effect the recapture of the Harriet Lane, at all hazards, and, if possible, to destroy the rebel gunboats.

THE CONFEDERATE NAVY.

A correspondent of the Boston Commercial Bulletin, writing from Liverpool under date of Dec. 31, says there are now at that port, at Laird's establishment where the Alabama was built, three new iron screw steamers, one said to be 3,000 tons, the other two 1,600 tons each; all very fine specimens, and expected to be formidable vessels and of great speed. The larger ship is reported to be ready for sea, with coals and stores on board, (no armament, of course) and her agents are now shipping a crew of picked men. It is said, in answer to inquiries, that this ship is bound for China; but there is little question [that is, among "loyal" Americans] that she is bound on a piratical expedition, and it is hinted that Maury, (now in Liverpool) is to have the command. The other two ships will not be ready for the present. A party of officers attached to this fleet have appeared in the naval uniforms adopted by the Confederacy since the news of the battle of Fredericksburg was received.

THE COST AND LOSSES OF THE WAR.

President Davis, in his speech before the Mississippi Legislature, told them that by holding Port Hudson, and so thwarting the enemy's scheme of forcing navigation through to New Orleans, the people of the West will be driven to the East to seek a market for their products, and will be compelled to pay so much in the way of freights, that those products will be rendered almost valueless. Thus he should not be surprised if the first daybreak of peace were to draw upon the South from that quarter. The Eastern States are not quite comfortable at the prospect of a reconstructed federation, which might refuse to admit them as members; so the Boston Courier will be very much disappointed if the day does not prove to be close at hand when New England will be found "sitting clothed and in her right mind."—Not only the East, but the North, would desist from trying to build their Tower of Babel, if they only knew how to dissolve of the demoralized army. A newspaper writer has made the following curious calculation as to the cost of the war thus far:—

What has been done since this war began?

1. Mr. Lincoln estimates the money expended up to June next at about	$1,200,000,000
2. To this must be added 25 per cent. or	300,000,000
3. The productive labour of say 600,000 men for an average of two years, at say only $200 per year, is	120,000,000
4. Permanent loss to the production of the country in dead and disabled men, say 300,000, at an average of life say 30 years, at $200 a year	600,000,000
5. Pensions, say 150,000 at 40 an average of 10 years, say $100 per year	150,000,000
6. Personal failures and losses in consequence of the war	200,000,000
7. Damage to public property, plantations, in South States, damage to business, and the reduced productions of the industrial pursuits for ten years at $100,000,000 a year	1,000,000,000
8. Add to this for the Southern portion of the expenses of the war, all of which has been paid by the people	1,500,000,000
Making	$5,070,000,000

There is not one item in this fearful amount that can properly be stricken out.

GIVE HENS MEAT.—The New-England Farmer says: "It is not generally understood that the hen, being omnivorous, requires, to insure fecundity, a very liberal allowance of meat. When enjoying her liberty in the fields, pastures or door yards, the principal part of her sustenance is derived from insects, worms, &c. She partakes but sparingly at such times of grain, and often when the article is supplied, leaves it for the more inviting food which nature supplies her with in her favourite haunts. Now if we confine her where the natural propensity for this description of food cannot be gratified, even though we supply the best of corn, grain, and in abundance, she will cease to lay. The privation affects her health, and there will necessarily be an end of profit until this deficiency is supplied. When fresh meat or fresh fish cannot be supplied, the common scraps of the butcher, which are hard and do not compact and can be kept any length of time, answer all the desired purpose."

INDIAN CORN FOR HORSES.—The Irish Farmers' Gazette says truly that "Indian corn is more nutritious and at present cheaper than oats. It recommends boiling it, or just bruised and steeped in cold water for three or four hours," and adds: "Horses for quick draught do well on it given raw; for slow draught it is best boiled and given warm, but not hot."

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

Weekly Journal of Local and General Information,

Will be Published every Saturday Morning, at Two Cents a Copy, or One Dollar a Year, STRICTLY in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS WILL BE INSERTED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS FOR CASH:—

1 lines, first insertion	0 50
ch subsequent insertion	0 12½
2 to ten lines, first insertion	0 70
ch subsequent insertion	0 15
ove ten lines (per line) first insertion	0 07
ch subsequent insertion, per line	0 02

All Communications for the MERCURY to be addressed, (post-paid) to A. SMALLFIELD, Madoc Post Office.

For sale at WILSON'S MEDICAL HALL, *Madoc, where Subscribers in and near the village may obtain their copies, and orders for the paper and advertisements will obligingly be received.*

☞ SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE YEARLY OR QUARTERLY IN ADVANCE.

COUNTY COUNCIL.

At the meeting of the County Council, held at Belleville on Tuesday, A. F. Wood, Esq., was elected Warden of the County of Hastings for the current year. Dr. Boulter, of Stirling, and A. Wilson, Esq., were also nominated as candidates for the office.

AUDITORS.—E. W. Holton, Esq., was appointed by the Warden; — Reed, Esq., by the Council. Mr. Reed afterwards resigned, and C. Levesconte, Esq., was appointed in his place.

THE MADOC MERCURY

AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

MADOC, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31.

A. F. WOOD ELECTED WARDEN OF HASTINGS!

EXCITEMENT IN THE VILLAGE ON THE RECEPTION OF THE NEWS.

GREAT REJOICINGS—BONFIRES—ILLUMINATIONS—PROCESSION TO WELCOME THE WARDEN HOME—SPEECHES—MUSIC—AND FIRING OF CANNON!!

The enthusiasm felt by the inhabitants of our village on receipt of the news on Tuesday evening that our respected Reeve had been elected Warden of the County, manifested itself by the strongest feelings of joy. Each one was anxiously awaiting the arrival of the "Daily Express," and in a very few minutes afterwards, the square was lighted up by a large bonfire; at intervals cannon boomed, communicating to those who reside outside, what the hopes they all entertained regarding the election of Warden were realized. A band of Music paraded the streets, repeated cheers were given in front of the residence of the Warden Elect, each and every one had a smile on his face, plainly showing how fully they appreciated the fact that Madoc can supply one who is worthy to fill the highest civic office in the County—and such an one is the newly elected Warden for the County of Hastings.

About 3 P. M. on Wednesday, it was said that we might expect Mr. Wood between six and seven o'clock. Preparations were immediately made for an illumination, and as one man all went joyfully about the work. At six o'clock positive information was received that the Warden would arrive in about an hour. A large party in sleighs and cutters, decorated with flags and evergreens, accompanied by a band of music, immediatly started, and met him about 6 miles from home. As the procession neared the village, the numbers largely increased, and from the top of the hill, at Mr. Bailey's, the village presented an appearance long to be remembered. Every house in the village *proper* was illuminated. The North American Hotel had a beautifully designed flag suspended from the front, with the appropriate inscription of "Agriculture and Madoc for ever." A large bonfire was built in the square, and all along the route cheer after cheer echoed and re-echoed through the woods in the neighbourhood. The sleigh escorting the Warden Elect carried a large flag, with the words "North Hastings and Madoc for ever" in large letters, and as the party drove around the bonfire repeated cheers were given, accompanied by the waving of flags and firing of cannon. When silence was obtained, Mr. Wood made a few appropriate remarks, thanking his friends for the hearty reception he had received, which was quite unexpected. Mr. Wood acknowledged the support he had received from Hungerford, Tyendinaga, Huntingdon, Sidney and Tudor;—and also paid a high and feeling tribute of respect to Dr. Boulter, of Stirling, the unsuccessful candidate, who he said, behaved during the contest in the most courteous and gentlemanly manner; and concluded by proposing three cheers for Old Madoc. These, with three times three cheers for Mr. Wood, and three cheers for the Queen, were all given with enthusiasm. The company then separated.

Later in the evening, a large party met at Mr. Moon's, and amidst toasts, responses and songs, the celebration of the event was brought to a close.

FIRE AT BELLEVILLE.

The Intelligencer Office and the Hall Buildings entirely Destroyed!

On Thursday afternoon, news was brought by the mail stage, that on the preceding night the *Intelligencer* office and Messrs. Sutherland's store, were destroyed by fire. We understand that the fire originated in a shoemaker's shop in the rear, and that the destruction of the *Intelligencer* office is complete. not £20 worth of property being saved.—It is but a few weeks since that we had the pleasure of announcing that the *Intelligencer* had removed its office, and was prepared, by the aid of new and very superior presses, to keep pace with the demands of its increasing business. With greater regret we learn of this sudden interruption of its prosperity—and can scarcely imagine that any calamity could occur in the County in which so large a number of persons would feel in some sort personally interested. We trust that Mr. Bowell was fully insured, and that the present inconvenience and loss will prove only temporary.

THREE PERSONS DROWNED IN SALMON RIVER, TYENDINAGA.

On Monday last, an inquest was held on the bodies of three persons,—a man, woman and child,—who were drowned while crossing the Salmon River, in a sleigh, by the breaking of the ice.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSION.

The Rev. ALFRED WHITMARSH desires to give notice, to the Church people of Madoc and parts adjacent, that he intends holding divine service at the places and times undermentioned. Parents, who have children unbaptized, are requested to take advantage of these opportunities.

A Collection will be taken up at the conclusion of each service.

Sunday, February 1st.

Jordan, Morning, 10:30. Madoc, Evening, 6:30.

Wednesday—4th.

Elzevir, Afternoon, 1:00.

Sunday—8th.

Madoc, Morn., 10:30. Robinson's Set't, Aft., 2:30.

Wednesday—11th.

Best's Settlement, Afternoon, 1:00.

Sunday—15th.

Madoc, Morn., 10:30. Elzevir, Aft., 2:30.

Wednesday—18th.

Robinson's Settlement, Aft., 1:00.

Sunday—22nd.

Marmora, Morning, 10:30. (Holy Communion to be administered.)

Madoc, Evening, 6:30.

Saturday—28th.

Beaver Creek, Afternoon, 3:00.

Report of the Madoc Agricultural Society.

Received and Adopted at the Meeting of the 17th inst.

The Directors, in submitting their Report for the bygone year, have much pleasure in congratulating the members of the Society on the increased progress and prosperity which have attended their efforts in furthering the interests of the institution. In comparing the statements and results of 1862 with those of 1861, they show a wide and marked difference of increase in all the various branches, both of members, stock and produce. The number who subscribed last year were 71, being 9 more than the year previous. The amount of subscriptions for the year is £18 15s., showing an increase of £3 3s. 9d. over the previous year. The amount received from the County Society was £37 15s., being 5s. less than the sum received last year. So that the subscriptions and the sum from the County Society amount to £36 10s., showing an increase of £2 18s. 9d, over the aggregate of last year. Out of this amount, £16 15s. was paid to the County Society, also for premiums for last show £33 6s. 9d., and also for sundry expenses 11s. 6d., leaving a balance in favour of the Society of £5 15s. 3d. It will therefore be seen that although there was a general increase of revenue for the year, there has been a larger amount paid for premiums than the year before. The Directors would state that the entries made for 1862 exceeded those of 1861. For instance, there were for horses, 30; cattle, 84; sheep, 21; swine, 18; grain, 24; seeds, 2; dairy poodnce, 18; vegetables, 56; farming implements, 1; cloth and quilts, 26; discretionary, 149—making in all 424. The horses were mostly of good quality, and showed a great difference in the breed, especially of draught horses. The cattle were also of superior quality, and showed an immense difference from those exhibited last year. The class of sheep were good, and showed considerable improvement in the breed. The swine were not so good in general, although one or two specimens were excellent. The quality of grain was not so good as might have been expected, the season having militated against all sorts of crop. The competition in seeds was limited, although the quantity was very fair. The dairy produce, especially in butter, was of a superior quality, and reflected much credit on the exhibitors. The vegetables were of the first class, and many were far superior to some which grow in a more genial soil with better cultivation. The specimens of cloth were very good, and many not inferior in texture to some of the same quality imported from the old country. The discretionary articles were of various kinds, and showed much skill and genius in the workmanship. The Show altogether, take it generally, was far superior to that of the County. The Directors would submit that in discretionary articles they should be as few as possible—and more articles classed under different heads, with special premiums set apart. In conclusion, the Directors have no hesitation in saying that the Society

e improving and is calculated to do an immense nt of good to the township. They would call every farmer in particular to join it, as it is, conceive, their bounden duty to do so; for the to be derived will more than remunerate them e worth of their dollar.—Madoc, Dec. 31, 1862.

JAMES O'HARA, President.
W. FINDLAY, Secretary.

RCH OF ENGLAND.—The Rev. Mr. Whitmarsh istered on Sunday last, for the first time, the ment to the members of his congregation. He sisted by the Rev. Mr. Preston, of Stirling, who hed an excellent practical sermon. In the after- the Rev. gentleman went over to Marmora, and divine service in the evening, a numerous and y interested congregation being present.

Whitmarsh has now visited all the stations the boundaries of his mission, and his success een more than gratifying to himself and the s of the church.—It is hoped that through the e blessing, the labours of Mr. Whitmarsh will, time, be the means of bringing back within the f the church all those who have been for years ring like sheep without a shepherd; and that y, by the fruits of those labours, we will see a reared in our midst, which will supply the that have been so long felt in Madoc and adja- localities.

---

opy the following from the Gazette:—

litary District Number Three, Upper Canada.

Seventh Battalion, Hastings.

e Major:—Captain and Adjutant Walter Find- ee James Best, who is permitted to retire with norary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

DENT—*Caution to those Driving Teams.*—On ay last, while a man named Collard was driving he road to Belleville, and within five miles of another team came up and wanted to pass. not perceiving the team, which was at full nd the horses rather restive, he was run down verely injured, and lies dangerously ill. An- an, named White, who was with Collard, also d some very severe bruises about the head and rs. It would be well for those in charge of on the roads to give ample warning to those hem, so as to afford sufficient room always in . The half of the road ought to be given is practicable to do so.

ON TO PARENTS—*Children Burned to Death.*—10th inst., an infant child, nine months old, of n Waddington, of Tudor, was scorched so through the chair in which it had been fast- its mother—to keep it out of harm's way— g by some accident upset during her tempo- ence, that it died in a few hours after. The the parents was heightened by the fact a time they were obliged to commit the re- o the earth without Christian burial. On the 26th inst., the funeral service was per- by the Rev. J. W. Sloan, of the Hastings sion.

re informed that one day this week another s burned to death in the Allen Settlement, ormant understood that the name of the vas Morgan, but was not acquainted with any articulars.

ENT.—On Friday, last week, Eddy Fisk, while wood in Mr. Canniff's bush, struck his t with the axe, which slipped from a frozen cut it so severely that amputation of the had to be resorted to. Dr. Thwaites was in e, and skilfully performed the operation.

YAN METHODIST SERVICES. it will be seen by tisement in another column, will be held on vening at Bannockburn.

OVERTISEMENTS.

To the Editor of the Madoc Mercury.

OR,—I am much obliged to you for the favourable have been pleased to take of my STARTLING AND GAY AGE SEASON. Permit me through your columns to friends and the travelling public that I am not only to take them through to Beaver Creek on the main m ready on any other day in the week to serve my customers, not only to Beaver Creek but to all County.

ot able from press of business to take passengers, y may depend on having a steady and obliging with them.

I remain, Your obedient Servant,

LYMAN MOON.

th Dec., 1862.

N.B.—PREACHING, D. V.,

Over the Store of Mr. Wm. Carpenter, Bannockburn,

ON SABBATH EVENING, Feb. 1st; at SIX o'Clock, P.M., and every three weeks succeeding, at 6 o'clock, P.M., by the Rev. J. W. SLOAN, Wesleyan Methodist Minister, of the Hastings Road Mission.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS WILLIAM MUMBY has by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that he be granted the Hastings Road Allowance in lieu of the present road now travelled through Lot No. 28, in the 4th Concession, Madoc.—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties objecting to the prayer of said petition will have to appear before said Council at their next regular meeting, when they will be heard, and of which due intimation will be given.

By Order, W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

NOTICE.

WHEREAS THOMAS THOMSON AND OTHERS have by petition applied to the Municipal Council of the Township of Madoc, praying that the said Thomas Thomson be granted the allowance of road across the west end of Lot No. 15, in the 5th Concession, Madoc, in lieu of the road now travelled across said lot.—NOTICE is hereby given that all parties having objections thereto will be heard by the said Council at their next regular meeting, of which due intimation will be given. By Order, W. FINDLAY, Town Clerk.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc, 29th Dec., 1862.

THE INTELLIGENCER,

A WEEKLY POLITICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER, published in Belleville by MACKENZIE BOWELL, at $2 a year. It is the oldest paper published in the County of Hastings, and one of the oldest in the Province, being in its 28th year.

Published every Friday Morning, corner of Front and Bridge Streets, Belleville, C. W. Terms:—Two Dollars per annum, if called for at the office, or sent by mail; and Two Dollars and a half per annum, when delivered by the carrier, payable in all cases in advance. When not paid till after the close of the year, Fifty Cents will be added to each year's subscription.

No Paper discontinued until all arrears are paid up, except at the option of the Publisher.

JOHN DALE,

DEALER IN STOVES, TINWARE, SHEET IRON, &c.—A Large Assortment of COOKING and BOX STOVES always on hand.

ANDREW WRIGHT,

BAKER AND CONFECTIONER, East Side, Durham street, Madoc.—A Large Assortment of Liquors, Groceries, and Provisions always on hand.

G. D. RAWE,

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER,

DIVISION STREET, MADOC.

MEDICAL HALL.

C. G. WILSON,

CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

DR. THWAITES,

Madoc.

W. FINDLAY,

Town Clerk, Conveyancer, Notary Public, &c.

Office, Town-Hall, Madoc.

A. F. WOOD,

MARRIAGE LICENSE AGENT,

MADOC.

JAMES FITZGERALD,

ATTORNEY AND CONVEYANCER,

MADOC.

MR. GREAM,

(Solicitor and Attorney of the Chancery and Law Courts of England)

Conveyancer, Coroner, &c.,

West Half of Lot 20 in the 7th Concession of Madoc.

MR. GREAM will attend in Madoc Village every Saturday.

MADOC GRIST MILL,

A. F. WOOD, Madoc.

A thoroughly Competent Miller in charge.

D. C. BROWN,

BLACKSMITH, HORSESHOER, &c.

JOBBING DONE AT ALL TIMES,

Both in the Village, and near Rupert's School House.

NEW STORE AT MADOC.

A. B. ROSS & BROTHER,

DEALERS IN STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, BOOTS AND SHOES, LEATHER, &c.

The Highest Price in Cash paid for Potash.

A. B. ROSS. S. D. ROSS.

DEANS & GRAY,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

Madoc.

JAMES DEANS. ROBERT T. GRAY.

To Let, for a Term of Three or Five Years,

THE WELL-KNOWN TAVERN STAND of JAMES JOHNSTON, on Lot No. 13, in the Fifth Concession of Madoc, with Five Acres of Land attached. For terms, which will be reasonable, apply on the premises.

MADOC HOUSE.

NEW GOODS.

WOOD & BREAKELL,

General Merchants,

DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, HARDWARE, GROCERIES, COAL OIL LAMPS, BOOTS & SHOES, &c., &c., &c.

Cash paid for Grain and Potash.

Madoc, Nov., 1862.

THE RUSSELL HOUSE, MADOC,

By A. Snider,

Corner of Madawaska and Donald Streets.

A FIRST CLASS HOUSE, in the business part of the town. A Good Yard and Stabling.

Major-General Burnside, instead of leading the Army of the Potomac to the "decisive victory due to the country," has turned over the command to Maj.-Gen. Joseph Hooker,—previously reported mortally wounded. It is rumoured that that army is to be virtually disbanded, and the greater portion to be sent to the West.

Rumours are again current in Europe that Louis Napoleon intends to recommend an armistice between North and South.

MADOC MARKET PRICES.

SATURDAY, Jan. 31st, 1863.

ASHES	$5 75 ₩ cwt.
BARLEY	
OATS	35 to 40 cents.
WHEAT	80 to 90 cents.
PEAS	50 to 60 cents.
HIDES	$4 to $4.50.
PORK	$6½ to $9 ₩ bbl.
BUTTER	12½ cents ₩ lb.
HAY	$12 ₩ ton.

BANNOCKBURN PRICES CURRENT.

WHEAT	$0 80 @ $0 85
OATS	35 @ 37½
PEAS	45 @ 50
BUCKWHEAT	20 @ 25
ASHES, ₩ 112 lb.	
BUTTER.	
HIDES, $4 25 @ $4 50.	
HAY, $12.	
STRAW, $1 50 @ $2 00 per load.	
POTATOES, 25c @ 30c.	

Jan. 31st, 1863.

BELLEVILLE MARKET.

Spring Wheat, 4s 0d @ 4s 3d. Rye, 3s 5d. Barley, 4s 3d @ 4s 6d. Oats, 1s 9d. Peas, 2s 9d. Flour (Retail) ₩ bbl., 22s 6d. Flour, ₩ 196 lbs., 11s 3d @ 12 6d. Potash, ₩ cwt., 20s 0d. Hay, ₩ ton, 90s 0d @ 95s 0d. Potatoes, ₩ bushel, 1s 0d @ 1s 6d. Beef, ₩ cwt., 15s 0d @ 20s 0d. Pork, ₩ cwt., 15s 0d @ 20s 0d. Butter, ₩ lb. 7d @ 8d. Eggs, ₩ doz. 5d @ 6d.

MARRIED.

HARPER—ANDERSON.—At Hastings Village, on Wednesday, the 28th inst., by the Rev. A. Whitmarsh, William Harper, Town Clerk of Tudor, to Angeline Anderson.

OUT OF REACH.

To love thee dumbly—ever by look or word
To break the silence of thy unsought sword;
To crush the voice that struggles to be heard;
To gaze unnoticed, on the forbidden good:

To stand within the vestibule of Bliss;
To grasp alone the shadow of the joy;
To see and feel, but never taste of Peace;
Daily to live in ah eternal night:

Awake, to dream of Love's undying song,
With expectation near akin to pain;
To hear its echoes as they float along,
But never to hear its full melodious strain:

To sit and look into thine eyes, and yearn
To tell thee all my closely hoarded thought;
And still to know that I must calmly learn
To meet thy gaze, and yet to utter naught:

To watch the flame, limned upon thy face,
And picture joys that never can be born;
Or gem the Future with thy gentle grace,
As weepers decorate the dead they mourn:

To know there is no hope: hourly to feel
That Destiny forbids a wished-for breath:—
This bitter fate is mine, until the seal
Is broken by the welcome hand of Death.

(Continued from last week)

THE OLD HOUSE AT BROCKLEHURST.

The woman set about preparing supper, and presently a repast of bacon, eggs and beer was put before me; and while I was engaged upon it, she and her husband went away together. The son sat on watching me in silence for a while, then followed them, leaving me alone for the first time since I had come into the house. He and his father soon came back, but a change had come upon them; their sullenness was gone, and they seemed most eager to hear my intentions about the place. It was evident how much they feared that I might take it and so deprive them of their home; and in this fear, they caught at every doubt of mine, and tried to foster it. From their account, the place was hot in summer, cold in winter; it was even tumbling to pieces: and it almost touched me, when, turning to the son, I said: "And yet you seem to like to live in it," to hear his curt answer: "I've been bred up here, and that makes a deal of difference." When the woman at last returned, I saw that she had been crying very bitterly, and with a half-remorseful feeling, I took a candle from her trembling hands, and followed her upstairs. They had chosen for me one of the old state-bedrooms, on the first floor, and a long way from the kitchen and the hall, at the end of a wide gallery. She paused at the door to say that she hoped I might find all I wanted, but that if not, there was a bell, and giving me no time to answer, hurried off. The room was large and lofty, and must have once been richly furnished, for there were cushions of faded blue silk in the window seats, and blue silk drapery about the windows; but all its other furniture had disappeared and it was bare and carpetless like the rest. At one end, a trestle bedstead had just been put up, and near it stood a wash-hand stand and glass, and a couple of rickety chairs. That was all; and very meagre and comfortless it looked; but I could expect nothing else, and cared little.

I sat long, noting down in my pocket book all I had observed, and pondering on various things, until the dull tones of the far-off stable-clock striking twelve aroused me, and I began to prepare for bed. Before lying down, I went instinctively across the room to secure the door; and found, to my surprise, that I was without the means of doing so, for there was no bolt and the key was not in the lock. For a moment I was startled; then I remembered that the keys of all the rooms had been on one large bunch, and no doubt the woman had forgotten to take this one off. Should I ring for it? I paused undecided; but the hour was late, the people must long since have been in bed, and I was strangely unwilling to encounter those surly looks again to-night. After all, it mattered little. Travelling as I did without luggage or money, and in simple, almost shabby dress, I had nothing to lose; and with health and strength in my favour, none would choose lightly to encounter me; and so, without disquietude, I blew out my light, and lay down in bed. Still I was not in darkness, for the moon shone full into the room, only obscured from time to time as a heavy cloud swept across and passing, seemed to leave it more clear and beautiful than ever. I lay long gazing, through one of the two large windows on the right, at the soft radiance of its face, the hurrying clouds, and the bright stars left studding the dark sky, and thinking, as husbands and fathers are wont to think, of the wife and children at home—thinking of the little feet that might one day go dancing over these unearpeted floors, many evenings hence, together in that grand deserted drawing room, and planning busily how far our London furniture could fit it up. Gradually my plans turned into dreamy fancies, my fancies failed, and I slept soundly—for how long, whether for minutes or hours, I cannot tell, but I woke in an instant, and with a sudden start and thrill. All was quiet—a cloud had veiled the moon, and the room was dark and still as death. No, not so still: what was that which, as I held my breath, came faintly on my ear? A rustling—so slight that I could scarcely catch it, yet surely a rustling in the far corner of the room. I was a man of strong nerves. In my youth, I had been in perils both by sea and land, and I had ever kept my courage and composure. I did not lose them now. Those men below might, despite the risk, be purposing to rob me: they might even in their anger and revenge at my mission here meditate worse things; but if the absence of the key had been no accident, and they were now in my room, they should find harder work than they had looked for. I had no fire-arms, but a loaded stick, which went with me in all my journeyings, was by my bed's head now. Slowly and cautiously, my hand stole out in the darkness, and grasped it tight. Then I waited. For a while there was perfect silence: then the sound began afresh, and there—there by the door, I could just see a moving form! On it came, then stopped, as though listening, and hearing nothing but my steady breathing, came on again, nearer and nearer, until, as it reached the foot of my bed, I sprang up. My stick was raised, was ready to descend, when the moon shone out again, and my hand dropped to my side for a woman stood before me—not the old woman I had seen, but one many years younger, clad in dark garments, with pale, haggard face, and wild eyes. What was it? a spirit, an escaped madwoman, or some plot to frighten me? As that last thought came into my mind, I summoned breath to ask: "Who in Heaven's name are you?"

"O hush, hush!" moaned out a voice full of life and pitcous as a crying child's. "Don't speak, don't let them hear!"

"They! Who are *they*, and who are you?"

"I will tell—I came to tell," and with sudden vehemence the figure seized my arm in a convulsive grasp. "I am a poor creature, whom for eighteen months, those wretches have kept imprisoned in this house, away from all who might have given me help. You are the first living soul who has been here; and I vowed to myself, that if I died for it, I would come to pray you to protect me; and oh, dear sir, kind sir, have pity on me!"

As she gasped out these words with passionate earnestness, yet in faint faltering tones, something seemed to tell me that this was no insane delusion, and no concerted scheme.

"My poor woman," I said soothingly, in a whisper low as her own, "I will help you, if I can, but you must show me how. What is your name, and why are you here?"

"They brought me—I had seen them do it—no one else—and they dared not leave me behind to tell so, when they had murdered him they brought me here, and shut me into the dreadful room upstairs. I am Ann Forrest."

The boy's tale, the Pearces' reluctance to let the house be seen, the closed lumber room—those few words threw light upon it all, and it was horror. I could not speak at first. I could hardly even think. At last I asked how she had freed herself.

"There were three rusty broken keys—I found them one day under some rubbish in my bed closet up there, and I tried them all, and one fitted, but I dared not use it while they were always down stairs, and so I hid it again. They would have killed me long ago, but she—the woman—is kinder than the others, and would never let them, and to night she talked and cried about your being here, and her husband's anger, little dreaming how I heeded her, for they think me almost silly now. But I did heed; and I thought that you would help me perhaps; and so when I knew that they must all be in bed, I brought out my key, and it unlocked the door, and then I listened outside every room until I found you by your breathing." She stopped at that last word, and looked at me with a wistful searching glance. "I found you," she repeated, "and now, O sir, you will not forsake me."

"I will not," I answered; but when I paused to think, a sense of our danger rushed upon me. Alone in this house, more than a mile from any human aid, how could I defend her or myself from men desperate, as these would be, if they only guessed that I knew their terrible secret. I, with a wife and children looking to me, had no right recklessly to peril my life. I must be cautious; and if it came to the worst, then I could but try what one strong arm in a good cause could do against two villains. So I spoke gently to the woman, holding her hand as she stood beside me, and trying to quiet her agony of terror and despair, while I said that I *would* save her, but to do it at this moment would not be possible. "Only wait till morning. Go back now to your prison, and trust to me." She started and shuddered.

"The key stuck in the lock, it would not come out," she said. "They may find it there, and then they will murder me, as they have threatened."

"Listen!" I whispered. "There is no sign that they have heard us yet. Go back, and try—try with all your strength to loosen the key, and look yourself in again; then you need fear nothing, for they cannot guess. I will watch: if you need me, cry out, and I will come—if not, wait and hope for the morning that shall bring you safety and release; only go now, before they find us together."

She seemed to understand, and moved towards the door submissively, then stopped: "You would not deceive me?" she said. The look and tone were so imploring, so inexpressibly mournful, that my heart smote me for letting her go, for remembering anything but her misery. She gazed into my face: "I know you would not," she said in quite another voice, and again turned away, I following her. Her fingers softly turned the handle; she crept into the passage, and I watched the tall dark form flitting along the gallery, her bare feet moving noiselessly upon the boards. I listened breathlessly, but there was neither sound nor movement in the house. The old couple slept at the foot of the back staircase and near the kitchen, the son in a small room close to the hall, never dreaming that the prisoner they had kept securely all those months would find means to force her prison on this very night—only the woman even knowing that she had heard of my presence in the house. If any chance noise awoke those sleepers, if any chance suspicion had turned them into watchers, then it might be a struggle of life and death. No; all was still as yet. The moonlight flooded the room, as, closing the door, I softly crossed to the window-seat, and sat down there to listen and think. Think—think of what? A horrible crime, a secret prison-house not twenty miles from London, the work that must be done to-morrow: all these things seemed crowded together wildly in my brain. By degrees, I grew calmer. I must release her, but how? Many ways flashed across me, and were cast aside again; so I sat motionless, gazing into the sky, my ear strained for any cry, until the first faint streak of dawn came into the east. No sound had broken the dead silence of the house, and now at last my plan was made, and might be tried. I dressed quietly, then waited for a while, and as the red rim of the rising sun showed through the trees, trumped noisily down stairs. I meant that they should hear and see me, but no one appeared; so, crossing to the kitchen, I looked in. The old man was there cutting up wood; he did not hear my step till I was close upon him, then turned sharply round: "You rise early," he said in the old surly tone.

With all the blood in my veins curdling in sight of that wicked, murderous face, I forced my lips to speak naturally: "Why, yes," I said: "I want to see something of the grounds before I breakfast. Can you tell me the best way to take?"

"I know nought about it," he answered: "there is nothing worth seeing anywhere about here."

"Where does the garden lie?" I asked. The instant I had spoken, I felt that my question, meant to divert suspicion, had been a rash one. He looked up, a new expression in his eyes—was it fear or doubt?

"There is no garden now," he said hastily; "it's a wilderness; and breakfast will be ready directly, if only that old idiot," and he shouted his wife's name, "was here, as she should be."

The precious minutes were slipping fast away, and yet I dared not seem in haste. The old man had returned to his chopping, and the monotonous thud of the hatchet alone sounded through the room. Presently I said carelessly: "Well, I'm just going for a turn in the wood now, and presently I shall get you to go round with me." I had not done speaking when the old woman's door opened, and I heard her foot beginning slowly to ascend the stairs. Was she going *there*? All might, perchance, be safe; but if that broken key *should* still be in the lock, the secret was betrayed. In desperation, I racked my brains for some device to bring her back: "Stay," I exclaimed to the old man; "isn't that your wife? I want her to get me, if she can, some eggs and vegetables to take to town; I will pay well."

His eyes brightened, and absorbed in that promise, he never saw the agitation of my manner; he stepped to the door: "Meg," he called, "gentleman wants ye. Come down, will ye?"

(To be Concluded next week)

THE MADOC MERCURY
AND NORTH RIDING NEWS.

VOL. 1. MADOC, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY [illegible], 1863. PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

NORTHERN INABILITY TO BEAR TAXATION.

No paper has boasted more loudly than the New York Journal of Commerce of the ability of the North to bear the financial burdens of war better than any other country in the world—strangely overlooking the fact that it had not the accumulated wealth of centuries to rely upon as a sure basis for taxation in a state of war. The tax-gatherer has scarcely commenced operations, and already the organ of the merchants and business men is getting new light on the subject. It reviews the present state of affairs as follows:

We must take it as conceded that up to the present moment the war has been ineffectual for much good. In fact, if the choice were given to go back to the day when the fall of Sumter aroused the North, if we could undo all that has been done and recommence the war, there is no doubt that the whole nation would gladly accept the opportunity. And why have we made this miserable failure?

It was not because we were weak, or because we were poor. The United States of America was as fully able two years ago to carry a debt of $1,000,000,000 as England. Our resources were equal, our taxable abilities even greater. Confidence, the foundation of government credit, was ample, and the war might have been commenced in a way to increase rather than diminish that confidence. There was no reasonable ground for hesitating to say that the loyal States could and would conquer the rebelling South-states in the course of time. It was a plain certainty in the future, that with wise statesmanship and good generalship the North would in the end be victorious. But why the doubts now prevalent? Why the people are indoctrinated with the idea that it only required a swift uprising of an army on the rebels, and a rapid march from Washington to the Gulf, and then all would be accomplished that was desired? Why Generals were called "too slow," who were unwilling to adopt the fast theory of the many? Why is the country is not now what it was two years ago—its ability for taxation is nothing like as great, in spite of the plan of the present Administration would have the country exhausted in the North by its vast sacrifices and destroyed in the Southern States by its emancipation policy, so as to be worthless for years as a tax-paying community, if not for ever? If the war is to go on successfully, it must go on upon a totally different policy financially, and in a military point of view.

CAPTURE OF A U. S. WAR VESSEL.

On the 17th inst. the U. S. sloop-of-war Brooklyn, in company with six other national steamers, was off Galveston, when they discovered a steamer in the offing. The steamer Hatteras, one of the U. S. vessels, immediately got under way to speak to, and when within hailing distance asked who she was. They received the answer: "Her Majesty's sloop-of-war Spitfire." The commander of the Hatteras told them to wait and he would send a boat to her, and just lowered his boat and had one of his officers and a crew in her, when the steamer opened fire. It was returned by the Hatteras, and both started ahead under a full head of steam, exchanging broadsides as fast as they could load and fire for about twenty minutes, with big guns, and then with musketry from both vessels. All the time acting master Patridge, in the boat, had been trying to board the Hatteras, but could not get near. After the musketry ceased, he discovered that the Hatteras was stopped, and blowing off steam, with the enemy alongside for the purpose of boarding. He heard the enemy cheering, and knew the Hatteras had been captured. Thinking it no use to go back to the vessel, he pulled for the shore, and succeeded in reaching it in safety under cover of the darkness. The Brooklyn then started in pursuit of the stranger, but she was lost sight of, and escaped. The Hatteras was found the next morning, sunk in nine fathoms of water.

It is conjectured that the strange vessel was the Alabama. At any rate she was not her Majesty's ship Spitfire, as that vessel was at the Bahamas on the 17th ult. The Hatteras mounted only four guns.

A later account states that it really was the Spitfire which sunk the Hatteras. An authentic explanation of this strange affair will be looked for with much interest.

THE CONFEDERATE STEAMER ORETO.

On the 16th ult., the Confederate steamer Oreto, which had been lying in Mobile Bay for some months, succeeded in escaping to sea in the presence of seven blockading vessels, and arrived safely at Havana. She soon after succeeded in capturing several U. S. merchant vessels, the news of which created a great sensation throughout the Northern States. There is, however, a rumour that she has been destroyed by three U. S. men-of-war.

Reported Defeat of the French in Mexico.

The news from Mexico is of a highly interesting and exciting character.

French communication between Vera Cruz and Orizaba has been completely cut off by the Mexican guerrillas, and can only be re-established and kept up by the French posting strong guards all along the route.

The Mexican guerrillas are in strong force all along the road, and worry the French unceasingly.

It is reported that the French have again been repulsed and driven back from before Puebla with great loss.

The French General's (Berthier's) vanguard, four thousand strong, was completely surprised by eight hundred Mexican cavalry, and about two thousand of the French troops were killed and wounded.

Several French officers were taken by the lasso and dragged off.

The prospects of the French look exceedingly bad. They can get no supplies from the country, and the are surrounded by a most determined enemy, who watch every opportunity to take advantage of them.

No French soldier can stray from his camp without being lassoed and dragged off by some Mexican guerrilla who is on the watch for him.

The small-pox, in its most malignant form, has broken out in Vera Cruz, and a lazaretto is being built for this class of patients.

Later news contains the important announcement that 10,000 of the Mexican garrison at Puebla had sallied out and attacked a French division numbering 14,000, eight leagues from the city, completely routing them, and driving them back to Orizaba. Jalapa and Tampico have been abandoned by the French.

The Bombardment of Acapulco.

The Bombardment of Acapulco by the French Fleet.

San Francisco, Monday, Jan. 26.

Arrived, steamer Sonora from Panama.

She reports that four French war vessels bombarded Acapulco for three days, commencing on the 14th. The fire was returned from the fort doing some damage. The people abandoned the town. But thirteen Mexicans were killed. The fort was finally silenced, when one hundred sailors landed and spiked the guns. The Mexican flag was then hauled down, and the French flag hoisted in its place.

AGRICULTURAL.

SHEEP AND THEIR CARE.—A correspondent of the New Hampshire Journal of Agriculture gives some very sensible ideas in regard to taking care of sheep, and the probability of some who do not see to their flocks properly of running out at the little end of the horn, after paying high prices for sheep, and then neglecting them through the Winter.

Many a farmer for the first time has gathered to his barn a flock of sheep. He has always killed his own pork. He has succeeded. He has had the trade of his neighbors. He has sold his beef and pork, got his money, and was content. But now, with wool at 70 cents per pound, he must try sheep. It is for his interest. Beef is low—hardly paying the expense. Wool is high, and pays a great profit on the capital invested. But the trade is to be learned, and there are many who will [illegible] for it.

Having taken the fever, they get the sheep, without ever calculating on the arrangements necessary for their accommodation, and the care they need through the Winter. A neglecting farmer will never succeed in the business. Such a one had better sell his sheep and invest his money in mahogany, for he will not live on the interest of it any longer than he can on that given at any time by the other man as well be forgotten as remembered. Many a flock of sheep will be sold the last part of March or First than they cost the owner. Indeed, a majority of the Winter deaths occur in March, when they will not thrive so well with the same attention as in any season, not being accustomed to sheep, will not feed them as they should be. In the Spring they are in a poor condition. They [illegible] vantage of the low walls and poor fences generally, and being lean and lank, they find their way all over the farm. He gets after them as he can, until the appearance of the first [illegible]. The sheep are sold at once, and thus ends the [illegible] in wool-growing.

So it has been, and so it will be. But *keep them well*, and it pays. In Winter feed them twice regularly with good hay, and once with good. Provide under cover in cold [illegible] out doors when pleasant. Toward Spring, give them a little grain. They always do best in Summer on hills, and all who keep sheep should give them upland to run on, if possible, as the wool, flesh and health of the flock is always better than if kept low. With good feed, and plenty of it, regularly fed, will produce the best results. Try it, and you will not regret your investment in wool sheep.

HORSE HINTS.—A correspondent of the Country Gentleman says: Many horses are poisoned positively (now) by the high state of the water. Dutch Gulch is so much water that [illegible] is not good for much, but it has a good supply of nutriment. Hence the reason, that those farmers who carefully feed unthrifted four [illegible] where the little German Lutheran Church stands, [illegible] will find their animals thus treated will [illegible] them alone. Boiling does not seem to [illegible] water, and if too much [illegible] it [illegible] it makes him big-bellied, but poor. Hogs, as well as other animals, should be allowed all the water they will drink, but it should not be mixed with their food in excessive quantity.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

The Grand Lama Wahoo for Twenty Minutes.

The arrangements for the marriage of Yonl Thumb and Lavinia Warren have been in fact completed. Bishop Potter will perform the service assisted by the Rector of St. John's Church at Bridgeport, where the little German Lutheran Church stands. The ceremony, and the day before and after, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]